ogofa 2

Summer 1994

The Journal of the

GWYNEDD CAVE & POTHOLE CLUB

GWYNEDD CAVE & POTHOLE CLUB

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Secretary

Robin Griffiths,[†1]

Chairman

Alan Parry,

Treasurer

Dean Mannion

Contents

Secreterial 2
The Great Orme 3
Ogof Cefn y Gist 4
Lead Acid Lamps 5
Agen Allwedd 6
Limekiln Cave 9
Tackle Master’s Report 10
Castell Mawr, Red Wharf Bay, Anglesey 10
Library Report 12
The Great Orme… *continued* 13
Derbyshire Weekend - Giant’s Hole, Water Icicle Close Cavern 15
Aygill Cavern 18
The Dinorwic Raft Race 19
OS Maps and Databases 21
Caves of the Denbigh Area 23

Introduction to 2023 Pdf version. Since the original paper versions of *Ogofa* were published in the mid 90s, a number of articles have ended up being referenced in other works. In order to make the publications more widely available, remastered Pdf versions have now been produced, with copies placed in relevant web repositories. Original text is reproduced verbatim, drawings have been redrawn, the original look and feel are kept where possible - although typefaces may vary. Where there are corrections or amendments, these are flagged as [†n], with corresponding text appearing at the end of the publication.

Robin Griffiths, January 2023

Summer 1994

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Secreterial

Well, it's been a busy old time since the last edition of *Ogofa* was published. What with the AGM and our best not mentioned filming exploits in Hen Ffynnhonnau! The majority of the aims which were put forward at the AGM in November have now been achieved. We joined the British Cave Research Association (BCRA) last September. Free public liability indemnity insurance cover is now given to all club members automatically through the BCRA insurance scheme.

We were elected provisional members of the Cambrian Caving Council (CCC) at their AGM at Brynmawr at the start of March. We were proposed by Mel Davies of the North Wales Caving Club and seconded by Frank Baguely of the Ogwr Caving Club. There is another meeting of the CCC in September where we should become full members. This should be another good South Wales trip. Through being members of the CCC we are automatically members of the National Caving Association (NCA). At the CCC meeting, Dean and I stayed behind for the Cambrian Cave Registry meeting where we agreed to act as North Wales area cave registrars.

The Cambrian Cave Registry was set up 30 years ago to record information about every cave or karst feature in Wales. The Registry is now pretty much out of date after a few static years, and the Information Officer - Bill Gascoigne is now keen to get things moving again. Our brief is to get as much information together on the following sites:- Chancewell Pot, Ffynnon Dea, Ffynnon Fair, Ffynnon Leinw, Ffynnon Wenwyll, Limekiln Cave, Lloches yr Afr, Lynx Cave, Ogof Cefn y Gist, Ogof Colomendy, Ogof Gwen Goch, Ogof Hen Ffynnhonnau, Ogof Llyn Du, Ogof Llyn Parc, Ogof Malwen, Ogof Nadolig, Orchid Cave, St Michael's Well, St Winifred's Well, Ty Canol Spring & Upper Kendrick's Cave.

I have obtained a proposal from the Bradford Pothole Club for us to join the Council of Northern Caving Clubs (CNCC) as associate members. Les Sykes of the Lancashire Underground Group has seconded us. After a meeting at the start of June we were elected members. This will enable us to obtain access to the controlled areas of Leck Fell and Easegill. After a year, we should become full members.

Now that the CNCC membership has gone through, I shall investigate obtaining membership of the remaining regional caving bodies - the Derbyshire Caving Association (DCA), the Council of Southern Caving Clubs (CSCC) and possibly the National Association of Mining History Organisations (NAMHO).

Since September, I have sent off approximately 50 items of correspondence. Of these, five have been to the CCC, four to the CNCC and fourteen requesting information for the Cambrian Cave Registry.

At the AGM, it was agreed that the club membership fee should be set at £5.00 per annum, payable in September. It was also decided that in order to generate club funds for buying equipment, a trip fee of £5.00 should be paid by each member attending a trip outside of North Wales. Hopefully this can be reduced in the future as we manage to build up our club funds.

Incidentally, the Annual Dinner will be held on October 15th in one of the British Caving areas. The AGM will be held in November. The date and venues of these will be published in *Ogofa 3* which will be out by the end of October. [If our correspondents manage to get their articles in on time !!!]

Some forthcoming events include:

- August Bank Holiday - Easegill Caverns
- BCRA Conference 17-18th September at Harper Adams College, Shropshire.
- CCC Meeting South Wales September 3rd, 4th - Little Neath River Cave
- Annual Dinner October 15th.
- Annual General Meeting TBA

I was recently approached by the Rescue Officer for the North Wales Cave Rescue Organisation. They are keen to have involvement from cavers based in Gwynedd. A number of our members are now on the call out list. This will be reported more fully in the next edition of *Ogofa*.

The Great Orme

Sunday 1st May

One Sunday recently, I visited the Great Orme at Llandudno to have a look at a few caves for the Registry. My main targets were Kendrick's Upper Cave (SH78008284) and Lloches yr Afr (SH77928382).

Upper Kendrick's Cave, which is 8 metres above Kendrick's Cave is in the garden of a house called Ardwy Orme which is not far from the tram station. In the past it has yielded a large amount of archaeological bones and artefacts. Unfortunately I was unable to gain access to the entrance.

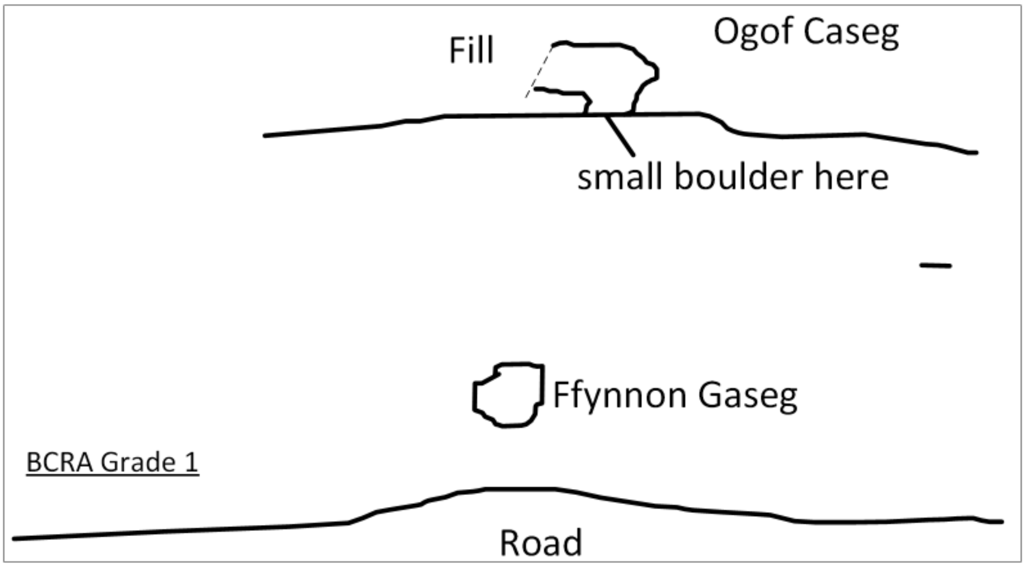
I did not have much luck with Lloches yr Afr either. The only thing I could find at the grid location was an overhang under which cars park. Since this, I have received some information from Mel Davies of the North Wales Caving Club who excavated this and other sites on the Great Orme during the seventies. Amongst the material he sent me was a photo of Lloches yr Afr. From this photo it appears that Lloches yr Afr is an even smaller overhang than the one I saw - not surprising that I missed it. Given its inclusion in the Cave Registry a return visit will be made.

Whilst driving home, about 500m after passing the lighthouse I saw a small entrance about 10 metres from the road on the left above a sign saying Ffynnon Gaseg. I had a look at this. The entrance is fairly small but a boulder in the dirt floor could be removed to ease entry. On the inside there is a small chamber about 3' x 3' x 3'. The back wall is solid limestone, but there appears to be some dirt fill on the left which could easily be removed. **Ffynnon Gaseg** itself is a small pool about 3' x 1' and 1' deep. There is not much movement to the water. Slabs of limestone appear to have been placed over the spring itself, and looking underneath this a low passage can be seen for about 2'. Given the proximity of the cave entrance to the spring, the cave could well be worth further investigation. The spring and the cave are at SH75398408. I have been unable to find any other reference to this cave and so I have decided to provisionally name it **Ogof y Gaseg** (Mare's Cave) after the spring.

There are a number of other interesting karst features on the Great Orme - caves, sea caves and springs. More of these will be investigated over the summer.

Sunday 15th May
Clutching an Opal Fruit ice lolly in one hand and a photo of **Lloches yr Afr** in the other, a rather furtive looking GCPC Secretary (I hadn't paid the exorbitant £1.50 parking fee) was to be seen sloping off around the Great Orme on foot intent on Lloches location. I investigated a number of likely looking sites and in the process incurred the wrath of a few irate seagulls sitting on their nests.

I eventually found the correct location to be just around the corner from the overhang I had looked at before. The 'entrance' is about 60 metres after the coastguard lookout building. Lloches yr Afr itself is a much smaller rock shelter about 3m high and wide by about 2m deep and is situated about 3m up a grassy slope above the road.



On the same visit I had a look at an old quarry by the tram sheds at grid reference SH77478312. About 30 metres along the

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footpath towards the Ski area on the left there is a narrow quarried area extending for about a 100m between spoil heaps. At two points on the left it is possible to see cavernous rifts above some of the spoil. The rifts are fairly narrow being only a few inches wide but they can seen to be opening up further in. By digging downwards it may be possible to reach a wider area. The rifts appear to be natural and could well repay digging being as they are about 160 metres high on the Great Orme.

Further on ahead in the same quarry can be seen what appears to be a mined out passage which looks as though it may extend for some distance. However due to the hole containing rubbish and myself wearing a pair of shorts, it was not entered.

I also searched for **Ffynnon y Galchog** SH77758367 and an un-named spring at SH77428361. Unfortunately these were not located.

...continued on page 13 ⇨

Ogof Cefn y Gist

Bank Holiday Monday, 2nd May 1994
Dean Mannion. Emyr Rees, Robin Griffiths, Brian and Robert Davies

By Robert Davies

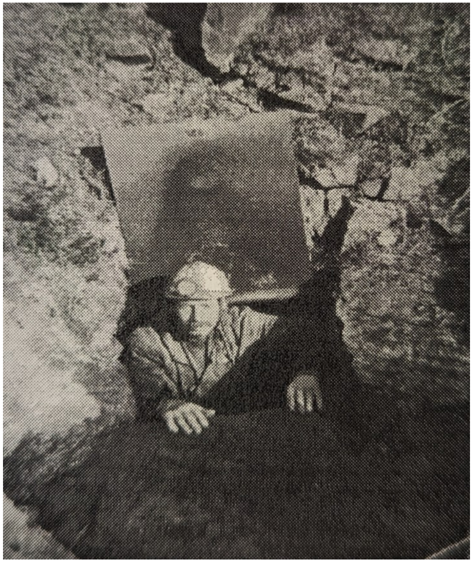
The day started with breakfast at Pete's Eats together with a discussion about what we were going to do that day. Robin had decided on Ogof Cefn y Gist near World's End, Llangollen and so we all made our way there. Before long we had parked at the lay-by mentioned in the Caves of North Wales. I found an entrance but Robin assured me that it was not the one we were looking for (the one we wanted had a stream going into it). We walked a bit farther up the valley and found the entrance covered with a steel plate with various bits of a car scattered around it.

Robin took the lead on the first section. This was down a narrow passage with loose boulders propped up with timber (great care was needed not to dislodge any). This led to a larger passage after a few tight squeezes. On the left was a short dig that went for about 12 metres. Emyr then led the way from here on along a muddy section that had been dug out (detonator and charge cable suggested that explosives had been used).

...well decorated

We finally arrived at a point where no further progress could be made, so after a breather we turned around and started on our way out. Brian having been taking up the rear, led the way out and found another passage leading to the left (right on the way in as described in the CNW). This was as described - well decorated with stalagmites, stalactites and curtains. At the end of this passage the mud under foot (or should that be under knees and elbows) was a darker brown. Robin explained to me that it was probably because this part of the cave was close to the surface. There was also a layer of rock that looked like coal, but after testing it at home (5 minutes under a blow lamp) it was found to be some type of shale. This passage was approx. 200 metres long.

...sheep ⇨



We then made our way back and after stopping for some photos, emerged into the warmth of the afternoon sunshine. After a short discussion and the rescue of a sheep, (By the intrepid and ovine orientated Mr. Rees -Ed.) we made our way back to Llanberis to pick up the raft from Dinorwig for its first trials. Dean's revolutionary new propulsion system was not all it was cracked up to be and it was decided that four people would have to paddle and not just two.

...continued on page 19 ⇨

Note: I later found out that we had been a bit naughty as there is no general access for this cave and you are liable to be accosted by the local gamekeeper and his dog.
RG

Lead Acid Lamps

The most popular lighting apparatus used by cavers is still the faithful lead acid rechargeable cell. This article discusses some aspects of their construction, operation and maintenance.

One of the criteria for choosing an electrode in a secondary cell is that both the reactants and the products of the reaction are insoluble in the electrolyte. This ensures that the electrodes retain their shape during discharging and charging. This is true for lead acid cells where the reactants - lead and lead oxide; and the product - lead sulphate are all insoluble in sulphuric acid.

When manufactured, each lead acid cell consists of two identical lead/antimony alloy plates covered in a lead sulphate paste. These plates are immersed in a solution of sulphuric acid in water. Before its initial charging, there is no difference between the positive and negative terminals of the cell.

Because the surface area of the electrodes in a lead acid cell is large, they are able to produce a high current if required.

Initial Charge

When the cell is charged for the first time, some of the lead (II) sulphate layer on the positive electrode (anode) is reduced to lead metal. Simultaneously, some of the lead (II) sulphate layer on the negative electrode (cathode) is oxidised to lead (IV) oxide. This initial charging determines the future polarity of the cell's terminals. This will have been done before the cell is purchased and the terminals will have been marked as such. The initial charging reactions are:-

$$PbSO_4\,(s) + 2e^- \rightarrow Pb\,(s) + SO_4^{2-}\,(aq)$$

(reduction at the anode, Pb (II) to Pb (0))

$$PbSO_4\,(s) + 6H_2O \rightarrow PbO_2\,(s) + SO_4^{2-}\,(aq) + 4H_3O^+\,(aq) + 2e^-$$

(oxidation at cathode, Pb (II) to Pb (IV))

The anode is now lead and the cathode is lead oxide.

Discharge

When the cell is discharged during use, the opposite reactions take place:-

$$Pb\,(s) + SO_4^{2-}\,(aq) \rightarrow PbSO_4\,(s) + 2^{e-}$$

(at anode +ve terminal)

This half reaction generates an EMF of +0.355V

$$PbO_2\,(s) + SO_4^{2-}\,(aq) + 4H_3O^+\,(aq) + 2^{e-} \rightarrow PbSO_4\,(s) + 6H_2O$$

(at cathode -ve terminal)

This half reaction generates an EMF of -1.685V

The combined reaction for discharge is:-

$$Pb\,(s) + PbO_2\,(s) + 2H_2SO_4(aq) -> 2PbSO_4\,(s) + 2H_2O$$

The total EMF generated by the two half reactions in the cell is 0.355V- (-1.685V) = 2.04V. An Oldham lamp consists of two of these cells giving a battery voltage of 4.08V.

When all the available lead and lead oxide on the electrodes have been converted to lead sulphate, the reaction stops, no more electricity is generated and the cell becomes flat.

It can be seen from these equations that the sulphuric acid electrolyte is used up during discharge and a layer of lead sulphate is deposited on both the anode and cathode. The concentration of sulphuric acid in a cell decreases during discharge and this can be used to determine a cell's state of charge.

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Impurities in the water used to dissolve the sulphuric acid electrolyte can lead to a process known as *local action* which can discharge a cell by between 1% to 2% per day. Using distilled water to top up the electrolyte can reduce this effect. At full charge, the specific gravity of the electrolyte should be 1.28 g/cc and may drop as low as 1.15 g/cc when discharged.

If the crystals of lead sulphate on the plates formed during discharge get too large, then they may reduce the working surface area of the electrodes degrading the cell's performance. Factors which can promote the growth of lead sulphate crystals include:-

- excessive heat applied to cell.
- excessive loss of water from the electrolyte solution.
- excessive drain on cell when too much current is drawn from it.

Charging and Maintenance

When the cell becomes fully charged, the water in the electrolyte starts being decomposed by the charging current into hydrogen and oxygen gases. It is important that lead acid cells are never charged in a sealed container and that the vents in the cell body are not blocked if a nasty incident is to be avoided.

If a cell generates gas bubbles as soon as it is put on charge, then the charge current is too high and the plates may well buckle and disintegrate. About 1A is a reasonable charging current, with possibly a facility for trickle charging towards the end of the charging cycle in order to prevent gas generation. This can easily be accomplished using a constant voltage charger as the charging current will reduce as the cell becomes more fully charged. The following example illustrates this using a 5V charging voltage and a 5ohm current limiting resistor for a standard 2 cell (4V) lead acid battery.

Assuming the cell starts off totally flat with a voltage of 0V across it, then the charging current will be:-

$$I = \frac{V_{res}}{R} = \frac{5}{5} = 1A$$

Note also that for a fully flat battery, the energy dissipated by the resistor will be 5W as all the voltage will be dropped across it. (make sure that the resistor is rated at >5W in order to prevent it glowing white hot!)

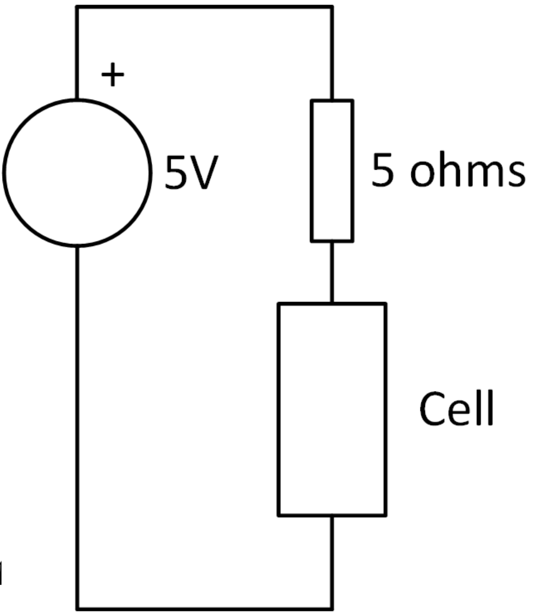
As the cell charges up, the voltage across it rises until it is 4V when fully charged. The current flowing will now be:-

$$I = \frac{V_{res}}{R} = \frac{(5-4)}{5} = 0.2A$$

This should ensure that excessive gassing does not take place as the cell becomes fully charged.

Approximately 150% of the energy capacity of the cell should be put into the cell as you expect to get out of it. For instance a 10AH battery should be charged at 1A for 15 hours.

Lead acid cells should never be left discharged as the lead sulphate on both electrodes can oxidise. This can lead to cell depolarisation which effectively reduces the amount of charge subsequently stored in the cell.



Some cells can become irreversibly damaged after being left uncharged for as little as 24 hours.

The water in a cell should usually be topped up about twice a year with distilled or de-ionised water. The acid in a cell should not usually have to be topped up unless there has been an accidental spill.

The Cup That Cheers

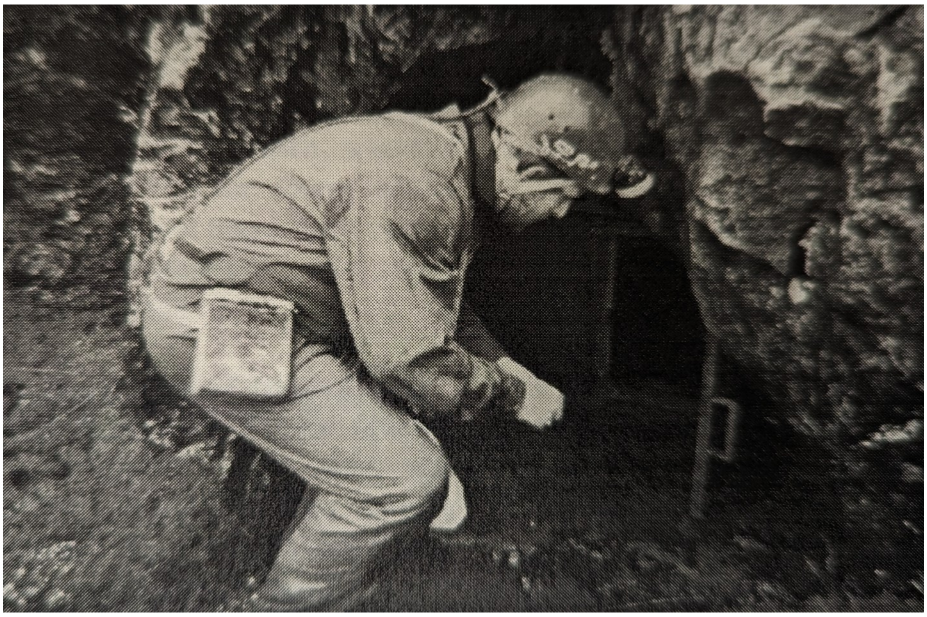
Railway Hotel, Giggleswick

The Railway isn't a pub for the real ale buff. However they serve a very decent pint of Tetley's. The pub itself is fairly isolated, now being on the new Settle bypass. The landlord and locals are very friendly - this being where we stayed during the 1993 GG Meet.

Agen Allwedd

Date: 5th March 1994
Party: Brian, Dean, Mandy, Richard, Rob, Robin

By Robin Griffiths



As we were due to appear before the Cambrian Caving Council's AGM at Brynmawr on the Sunday, I decided to obtain a permit for Agen Allwedd for the Saturday. Agen Allwedd is a typical South Wales river cave, and has together with the other caves of Llangattock been the scene of much discovery over the last 10 years or so.

...quite short

Agen Allwedd is a large and complex system offering a number of round trips - one of the classics of British caving being the Grand Circle route. This route consists of Main Passage, Southern Stream Passage, Lower Stream Way, Biza Passage, Main Stream Way and back up Main Passage. On the survey it looks quite short, although a piece of string shows it to be about four miles or so in length.

Dean and I met the others at the Crickhowell car park around mid morning. Richard & Mandy trundled down to the caving shop to hire some extra lamps. The bloke in the shop told them *'Aggy? The lads who went down last week were lucky, they had an inch of air space. It's been a wet week.'* he said as he shook his head skywards.

'Strange', I thought, '*the guide book doesn't mention that. It must be one of the entrance squeezes'*. We decided that we had better pop up for a look anyway. We had to employ the system of successive approximation in order to find the car park near Whitewalls.

...syrupy mess

Equipped with 10 mars bars, a pound of dates, two pork pies, ham rolls, pork scratchings, some plastic isotonic lucozade bottles etc. we trudged along the Llangattock Escarpment in search of the entrance. The entrance is gated, and soon we were all in signing the log book. It was 12 'o clock noon. We found the two entrance 'squeezes' to be dry after all! The entrance series contained many bats which were fast asleep, hanging upside down from various nooks and crannies. We soon got to the first boulder choke and Brian discovered the way on by sliding down a hole in the floor. Following him, a rather disturbing pop emanated from my SRT bag. 'The lucozade', I thought opening my SRT bag expecting to find a syrupy mess. However it was a false alarm, the lucozade bottles were intact. The passage soon intercepted Main Passage.

Main Passage was huge - running parallel to the escarpment for about a mile. Here and there along its length were strange crystals of selenite growing from the mud on the floor. After a quick conference, we decided to have a go at the Grand Circle route. According to some pre-trip reading, the most strenuous part of the trip is Southern Stream Passage which consists of about a mile of crawling and sideways shuffling. We therefore decided to do this first in order to get the worst out of the way.

...snaggly projections

We got to a large junction, and I was despatched to find out whether it was the right one. The passage reduced to an awkward sideways thrutch through water with loads of snaggly projections impeding my movement. *'Bugger it, I'm not doing that for a mile'* I thought. However, it turned out

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to be Trident Passage - Southern Stream Passage was further down along Main Passage. We found the entrance to this and set off on a hands and knees crawl through water. After about an hour of this we stopped for lunch where I discovered that the source of the mysterious pop was a burst packet of pork scratchings - now soggy and gelatinous.

I'll 'ave 'alf

The Hill Inn, Chapel-le-Dale

No Yorkshire pub review would be complete without mention of the Hill Inn. The 'Hill' is fairly spartanly decored but manages to make up for this with its character. It has long been a tradition of the club to make a bee-line from the cave to the Hill for a quick pint and a samosa before getting ready for the evening's entertainment. Boddingtons, Dent and Theakstons are served and are generally very good. The Hill can get packed at night and there is a band in the barn on Saturday nights.

...corpulent members

There was a nice flat out squeeze in the river on the way, and another downwards one over a rock flake causing problems for the more corpulent members (or member). The passage gradually heightened and narrowed and finally emerged at a junction with Lower Main Stream Passage. This was an impressive place with the black, slow moving water flowing underneath a large vaulted archway covered in froth. 5 o' clock. We were making good time - 'Should be out for last orders', I thought.

Wading in the water wasn't fun, but we soon got into our stride. There were a number of rapids and deep pools on the way. There was one particularly impressive waterfall with a deep plunge pool underneath it. A combination of slings and human crane tactics were required to get everyone up the waterfall. A second waterfall was by-passed using a loose high level traverse to the left. We got to the fifth boulder choke by 7 o' clock.

The guide book said that there were a couple of fixed ropes leading up to the high level Biza Passage. The only rope we could see looked pretty scary - going up a near vertical wall. 'So that's why most people go around anti-clockwise, it must be an abseil down !'. We were about to start re-tracing our steps when Mandy spotted another rope going upwards. Gratefully, we were soon up this and crawling along Biza Passage.

After a number of junctions, the passage gradually lowered, leading to an area of loose boulders with a rather doubtful looking hole in the floor. Brian spent a few minutes peering down the hole. I was volunteered to go down first. It was a bit of a squeeze, and after another thrutch I came out in a small chamber. There was another hole in the floor, and I soon negotiated this to reach the Main Stream Passage - that was the fourth boulder choke dealt with. Dean had a bit of a problem with the squeeze, getting jammed. However after removing various articles of clothing he got through.

...tittered

We encountered the third boulder choke soon after this. This was passed at stream level. The guide book mentioned that there was then a low duck under an archway followed by a swim. There ahead was an archway with a nice foot and a half of airspace above it. We all tittered at our good fortune. I went through first only to discover that there was a ⇨

proper duck with about an inch or two of airspace beyond it. The ‘keeping the mouth out of the water’ ploy failed as my helmet bounced off the ceiling, so I had to dive through underneath. Another similar duck followed, and I soon spluttered my way through to the other side. The rest of the party soon followed. The river then gradually got deeper until we were all swimming along the narrow passage.

The passage then became easier until we reached the second boulder choke. Several abortive attempts were made to find a way through it. Eventually, we found the route through at a high level. A short walk later we got back to the Main Passage. It was now one ‘o clock in the morning.

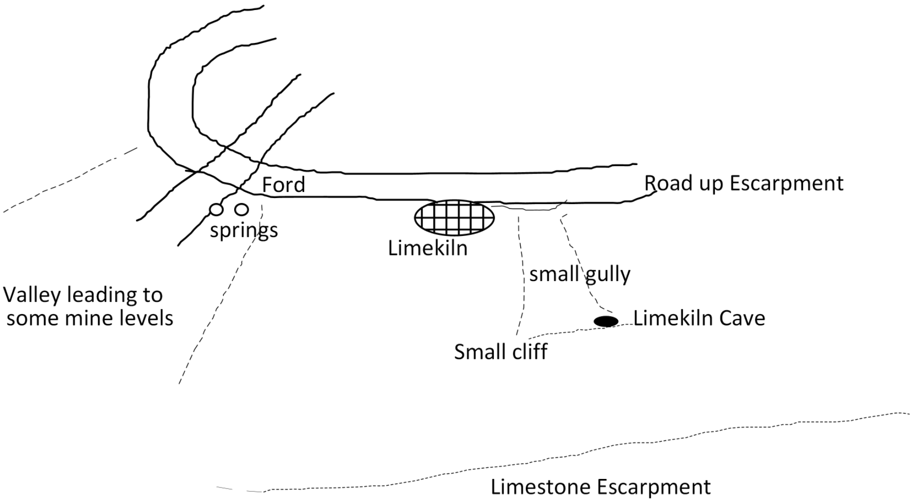
...plain sailing

Finding our way out of the main passage back to the entrance series proved to be harder than we anticipated, but after a couple of wrong turnings we managed to pop up through a hole in the first boulder choke. Now that we could see the bats again, we knew that it was now plain sailing all the way with the smell of fresh air guiding us down the proper route. It was four o' clock in the morning when a rather tired party finally signed out of the cave.

Given the lateness of the hour Richard, Mandy, Brian and Rob camped in the car park rather than negotiate the steep road back down to Crickhowell. Dean and I got back to the B&B by about 5 am. However it was rather difficult sleeping as images of cave roofs and bats kept swimming into my head.

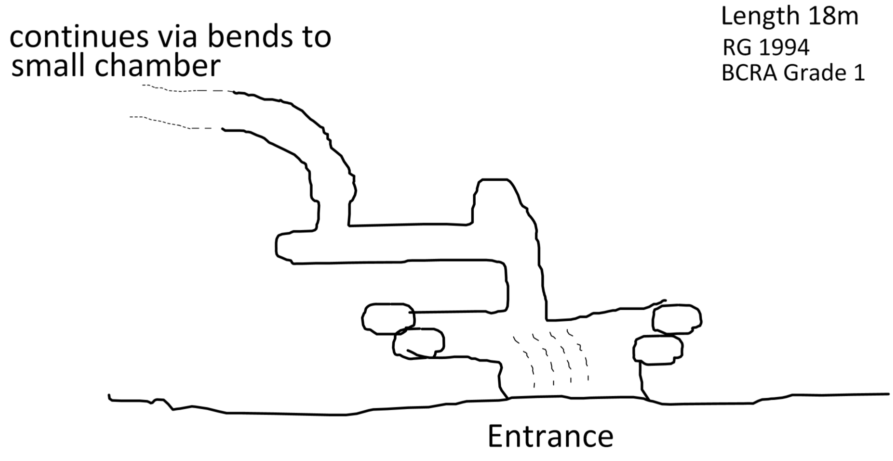
Limekiln Cave

On Thursday the 2nd of June I had a look at Limekiln Cave SJ23304788 at World’s End which is between the Esclusham and Eglwyseg Mountains. The entrance was situated at the base of a small cliff at the top of a small gully above an old limekiln just after the ford across the river.



The entrance is about 4feet high by about 6feet wide. The way on was through a low passage about a foot high and a foot and a half wide down a small slope on the left. A large boulder had to be removed from the passage in order for me to get in. The passage went to the left for about ten feet before reaching a restriction on the right. Due to the fact that I did not have adequate lighting, I did not proceed much further than this point. According to pre-trip literature, the cave continues for another 20 feet to a small chamber.

Most of the passage is between 2’ to 3’ wide and about 1’6" and 2’ high. Although the cave is now dry, there are signs of downcutting by water in the floor - especially at the first restriction. Apparantly during a prolonged wet season in 1976, the cave acted as a resurgence and wiped most of the road below away.



Tackle Master's Report

I am currently in the process of generating a database of all our caving ropes. This should prove to be invaluable in the future when it comes to deciding what ropes are still fit for caving. Each rope will be marked with an identifier coding its reference and its length.

Dean is planning a similar system for our metal bits and pieces. He intends engraving the name of the owner together with its date of purchase on every chunk of metal he can lay his hands on.

Our new 11mm rope proved its worth on the entrance shaft to Water Icicle Close cavern. The descent was very smooth and the ascent seemed to be much more secure than that experienced using the old 9mm stuff. Probably our next club purchase will be a 60-70m 1lmm SRT rope. This will enable us to do some of the classic shafts of Yorkshire.

Most of the club now seems to have their own lighting and head protection arrangements. This will be useful for trips to the Mold and Wrexham areas of North Wales where such items cannot be hired.

Wet suits still appear to be a bit of an enigma! My trip to South Wales and the preceding Yorkshire trips were very comfortable - and all during the Winter. But a recent trip to Derbyshire with low water conditions during Spring proved to be a cold affair. Reading a recent article about caving clobber, it appears to be that the best strategy with a wetsuit is to wear a windproof layer such as a cagoule over it. However, from a personal point of view I am very tempted to get a furry suit and an oversuit.

The price of ladders (approx. £60.00) still puts them out of our grasp. We will continue to employ SRT techniques outside of Derbyshire where we can hire a ladder for about £2.00 per day.

The experiences at Agen Allwedd (17 hour trip) re-inforced the need for adequate emergency supplies. To this end I have assembled a BDH canister full of goodies if the worse does happen. These include a full first aid kit, fuse and bulb assemblies for Oldham lamps, spare electrical lighting, 8 hour candles & waterproof matches.

Handy Hints ®

...Relaxing Underground

When offering to light a colleague's cigarette whilst taking a break underground, under no circumstances should you light more that two cigarettes with the same match.

By the time you come to light the third cigarette, the sniper who is hiding behind the boulder choke in the distance will have had time to take aim at the lighted match and will have shot the third person in the head.

Castell Mawr

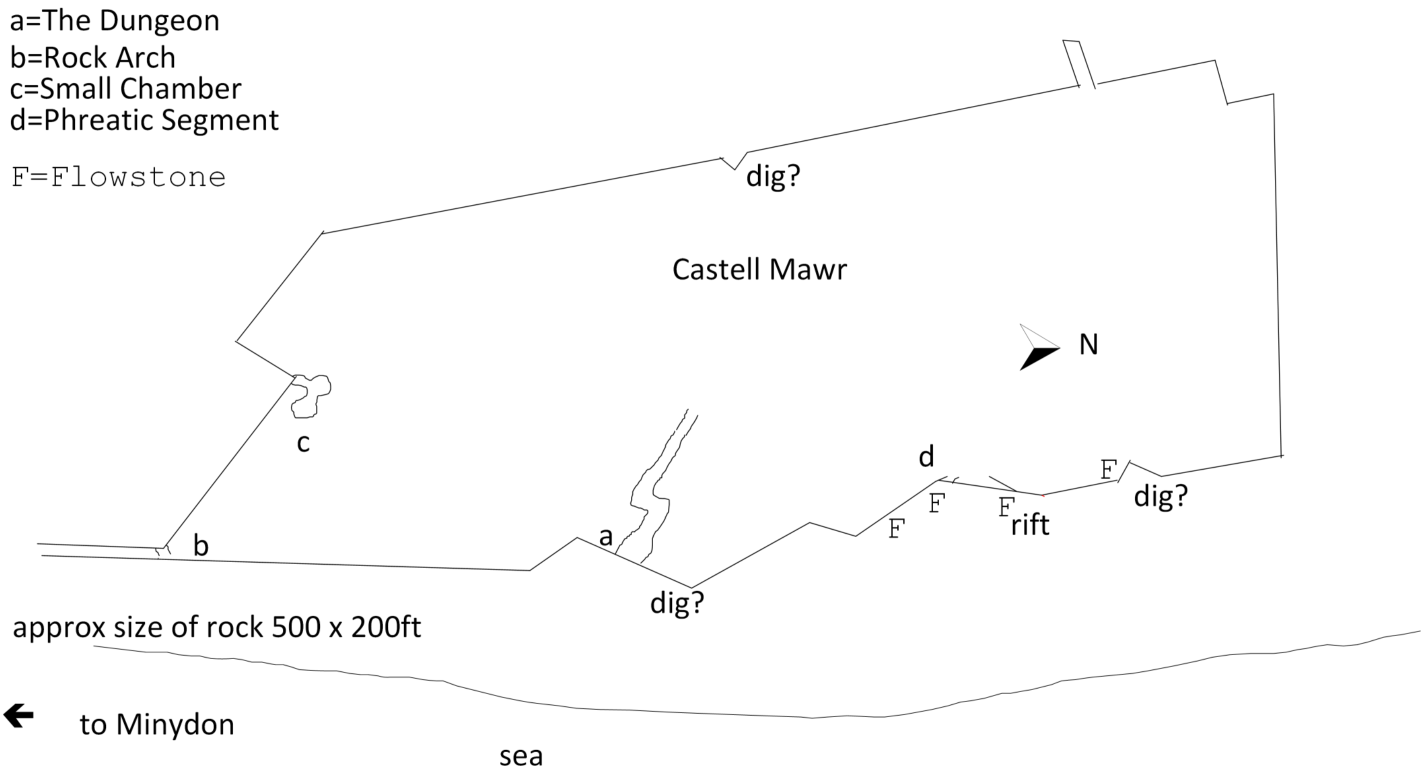
Red Wharf Bay - Update

Since the release of *Ogofa 1*, there have been a number of trips to Castell Mawr SH531816, Red Wharf Bay. The first trip on Saturday 26th March saw me and Dean together with a pile of gardening equipment hard at work in 'The Dungeon'. A brief look showed that although low, the dig is fairly easy. After about three hours, we had progressed about 3 feet underneath a rock flake. The passage could be seen continuing for another 10 feet or so through the narrow gap between the roof and the top of the infill. The dig is about 2' x 2'. There are a number of broken straws on the roof of 'The Dungeon', and a small curtain in the dig itself.

On Saturday 1st April, I visited Castell Mawr again for a reconnaissance. I found another cave (d) about 6 feet up the rock face. I had not noticed this hole before because it was obscured by brambles. However, after some landscape gardening, I managed to gain entry. It is only about 8 feet long, but has some calcite formations. The back of the passage is blocked by what looks like a large stal boss. This is a phreatic segment which has been quarried away. A section of the passage can be seen extending for about 20ft down the cliff wall to the south east with calcite formations above indicating that it was formed along a vertical joint.

⇨

The Caves of Castell Mawr, Red Wharf Bay, Anglesey



BCRA Grade 1

There is another narrow cavernous rift about 10 metres to the north from (d). There are also a number of potential digging sites around the rock. These may be cave passages which have been choked with dirt so that only the roof section can be seen. Cave (b) is a rock arch about 6 feet high and wide, and is about 4 feet long.

While there I produced a rough magnetic survey of the rock as depicted above.

Beer Talk

The Marton Arms, Thornton in Lonsdale

The Marton Arms has long been popular with cavers, serving as it does 12 real ales. It also serves good but fairly pricey pub food. Thwaites and Theakstons are served as standard. Guest beers include the likes of Timothy Taylor, Old Grumble, Pendle Witches Brew, Buzz, Stairway to Heaven, Old Stumper, Dent etc. etc. etc…. The beer is well kept, although the temptation to do a traverse of the pumps is usually a mistake as some strong brews lurk in the midst of some of their more modest companions. The atmosphere is quite pleasant although you do tend to get some touristy types with children during meal times.

Whilst wandering about on the beach, I found a spring just to the north of Dwlban Point at grid reference SH52908215 (altitude 5m). It is situated at the base of some cliffs behind some old huts. The spring comes out of a hole about 18” high by about 5” wide. An estimated 30-60l/min. comes out of it (standard April weather). Unfortunately it is too tight for entry by a caver. There is another spring some distance to the south, but this seeps out of a big mud pile about 10’ from the cliff.

There is another small spring at grid reference SH52758115, (altitude 40m) above the junction of the Min y Don and the camp site roads. The spring is at the base of a low 5’ cliff, only a few feet below field level and discharges an estimated 5l/min.

Since then, Brian has returned to ‘The Dungeon’ and dug out the area under the rock flake providing easier access to the dig beyond.

LIBRARY REPORT

A couple of new mining books have been added to the library. There is now a fairly complete set of *Descent* magazine from issue 45 (April 1980) onwards. The library now consists of these books.

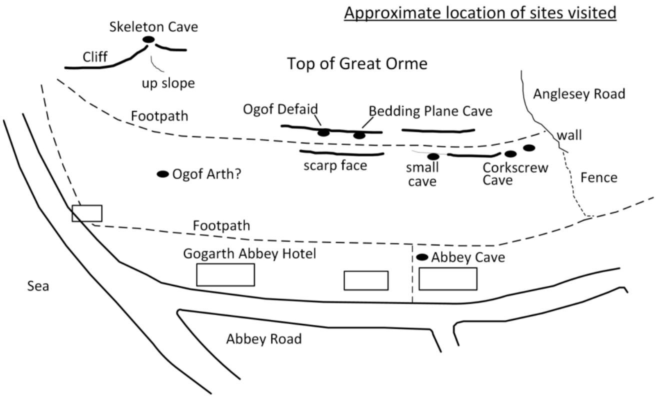
1994 directory of Caving Clubs :- Oldham, Tony
Alderley Edge Mines, The :- Carlon, Chris J.
American Caves & Caving :- Halliday, William R.
Beneath the Mountains :- Rose, David & Gregson, Richard
Blue Holes of the Bahamas, The :- Palmer, Robert
Britain's Old Metal Mines - A Pictorial Survey :- Bird, R.H.
British Regional Geology - North Wales :- Smith, Bernard & George, T Neville
Cave Explorers, The :- Eyre, Jim
Cave Notes - Co. Clare & Co. Galway :- Boycott, A.& Wilson, L.J.
Cave Surveying, An Introduction to :- Ellis, Bryan
Caves & Cave Life
Caves & Karst of the Peak District :- Ford, Trevor & Gunn, John
Caves & Karst of the Yorkshire Dales :- Ford, Trevor & Gunn, John
Caves & Limestone of Wales :- Ford, Trevor
Caves Beyond, The :- Lawrence, Joe & Brucker, Roger W.
Caves of County Clare :- Self, C.A.
Caves of Derbyshire :- Ford, Trevor & Gill, David W.
Caves of South Wales :- Stratford, Tim
Caves of the Peak District :- Gill, David W & Beck, John S
Caving Practice & Equipment :- Judson, David
Copper & Lead Mines of Ecton Hill, The :- Robey, John A. & Porter, Lindsey
Darkness Beckons, The :- Farr, Martyn
Deep Into the Blue Holes :- Palmer, Rob
Derbyshire Caving 87 :- Derbyshire Caving Association
Descent Index 1-100 :- Howes, Chris
Descent Index 100-110 :- Howes, Chris
Ease Gill System, The :- Eyre, Jim
First Aid for Cavers :- Glanvill, Peter
Gaping Gill - 150 years of exploration :- Beck, Howard M.
Geography, An Integrated Approach :- Waugh, David
Geological Map, The :- Edmonds, Eric
Geology & Scenery in Scotland :- Whittow, J.B.
Ghar Parau :- Judson, David
Great Caving Adventure, The :- Farr, Martyn Great
Orme Copper Mines, The :- Smith, Don
Hidden Side of Swaledale, The :- Hardy, John
History of Mendip Caving, The :- Johnson, Peter
History of Sygun, A :- Bick, David
Ingleborough Cavern & Gaping Gill :- Jarman, R.A. & S.A.
Jewel Cave Adventure, The :- Conn, Herb & Jan
Legal Aspects of Underground Access
Limestones & Caves of North West England :- Waltham, A.C.
Limestones & Caves of the Mendip Hills :- Smith, D.L
Longest Cave, The :- Brucker, Roger W. & Watson, Richard A.
Memoirs of a Speleologist :- Joly, Robert de
Mendip - It's Swallet Caves & Rock Shelters :- Balch, H.E.
Mendip - The Complete Caves :- Barrington, Nicholas & Stanton, William
Mendip Underground - A Caver's Guide :- Irwin, D.J. & Knibbs, A.J.
Milwr Tunnel, The :- Ebbs, Cris
Mining in Cornwall Today :- Down, C.G.
Mountaincraft & Leadership :- Langmuir, Eric
Muddy Oxbows :- Hendy, Phil
Northern Caves 2 - Penyghent & Malham :- Brook, D. & Davies, G.M. & Long, M.H.
Northern Caves 2 - The Three Peaks :- Brook, A. & D. & Griffiths,J. & Long, M.H.
Northern Caves 4A - Scales Moor & Kingsdale :- Brook, D. & Davies, G.M. & Long, M.H.
Northern Caving :- CNCC
Old Copper Mines of Snowdonia, The :- Bick, David
Old Metal Mines of Mid Wales - Cardiganshire 1 & 2 :- Bick, David
Old Metal Mines of Mid Wales - Cardiganshire 2 :- Bick, David
Old Metal Mines of Mid Wales - Cardiganshire 3 :- Bick, David
Old Metal Mines of Mid Wales - Cardiganshire 4&5 :- Bick, David
Old Metal Mines of Mid Wales - Cardiganshire 6 :- Bick, David
Principles of Geology :- Holmes, Doris M.
Race Against Time :- Eyre, Jim & Frankland, John
Right In It :- Eyre, Jim
Rope Techniques :- March, Bill
Speleology :- Moore, George W. & Sullivan, G. Nicholas
Sport Diving :- Paul, Stanley
St Cuthbert's Swallet :- Irwin, DJ
Subterranean Climbers :- Chevalier, Pierre
Ten Years Under the Earth :- Castaret, Norbert
ULSA Explorations Journal II :- Monkico, Paul
Underground Adventure :- Gemmel, A. & Myers J. O.
Underground Atlas, The :- Middleton, John & Waltham, Tony
Underground Britain :- Bedford, Bruce
Underground Worlds :- Jackson, Donald Dale
Who was Aveline Anyway ? :- Whitcombe, Richard

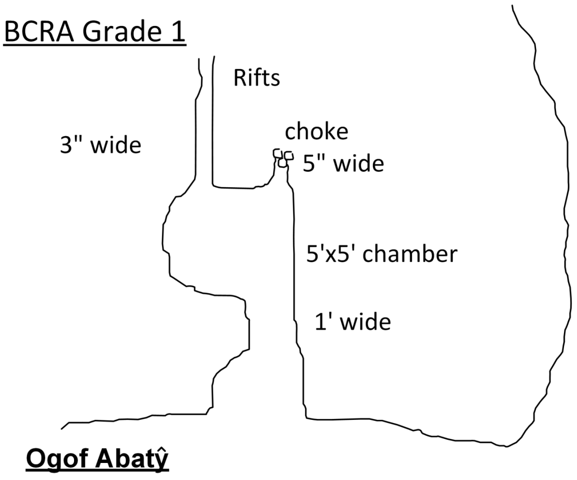
Great Orme

...continued from Page 4

Sunday 11th June

Taking a small footpath up the Great Orme, about 50' before reaching the main footpath running east to west, I noticed an entrance in a small rocky knoll to the right of the path. The entrance is about 4' wide and about 8' high. It rapidly reduces to a width of about 1' before entering a small chamber about 5' square by about 8' high. The flat floor is covered in dirt with some rubbish. The wall of the chamber has some strange nodules. From the chamber, two parallel rifts continue. The one on the left is about 3" wide and looks as if it extends for another 15'. The rift on the right is wider at 5", but is choked after about 4'. The total length of the cave is about 12'. On the other side of the knoll there are a couple of holes which probably link with the rift. There appears to have been some slippage at the base of the knoll which probably in part is responsible for the cave.





This cave does not appear to have a name so I have provisionally named it **Ogof Abaty**[†2].

On route to find Bedding Plane Cave I saw a small hole about 4' up a cliff face on the right near the top of the escarpment. The entrance can be seen from the road below. The hole is about 4' wide, 1.5' high and closes down after about 5'.

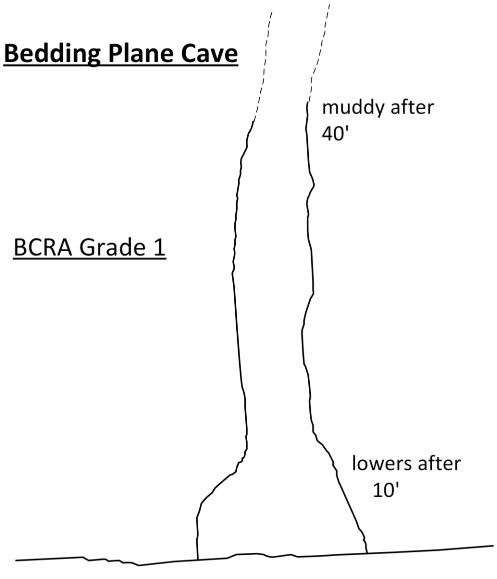
Bedding Plane Cave itself SH77168240 is about 20' above a path parallel to the top of the escarpment at the base of a small 6' cliff. The entrance is about 8' wide and about 4' high. The elliptical shaped entrance can be seen from Abbey Road below. The entrance soon lowers and after a low 1.5' section the passage continues as a 3' high 8' wide passage floored with dry mud. After about 40' there are signs of digging and the mud becomes wetter, and for this reason was not followed. However, the passage can be seen going onwards for another 30' or so.

The next cave I visited was **Corkscrew Cave** SH77328240. The entrance(s) to this were about 100' to the west from some steps going over a wall. There are two entrances about 40' apart, one which is hidden by nettles and the other which is at the base of a small outcrop. The passage takes the form of a semi-circle linking the two entrances. The entrance passage is fairly roomy being about 2' wide and 5' high. The width reduces to about a foot and the deepest part of the cave is fairly awkward to negotiate before easing to emerge at the other entrance. The cave has a dry dirt floor. It is quite an entertaining little hole! Some human remains have been found here in the past.

Handy Hints ®

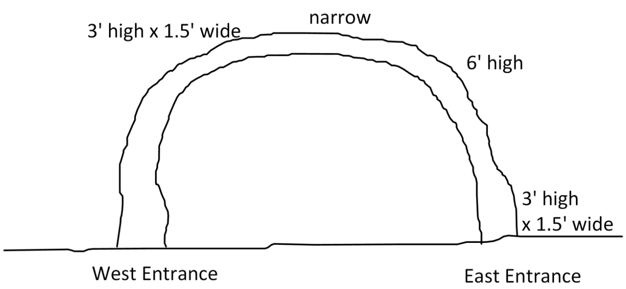
...A handy sump diving hint

If when diving a sump you should happen to feel the suckered tentacle of an octopus around your neck - Remember… The only way to kill it without a weapon is to bite it between the eyes above its beak where the creature's brain resides.



Walking westwards about 300' further on from Bedding Plane Cave in the same small cliff is a small cave formed by the collapse of some bedding planes. This appears to be **Ogof Defaid** SH77128254. This is a 5' long rock shelter type of cave with a ⇨

Corkscrew Cave



BCRA Grade 1

number of loose blocks of limestone present.

The final cave I visited was **Skeleton Cave** SH76708254. This is further to the west again. There is a gully between some cliffs at the top of a slope with a large overhang. I went up to the overhang, and about 10’ up on the left hand side there was a small entrance about 3’ high and wide. After about 8’ this intersects a mud floored passage. To the right is choked, but leftwards continues downwards to a low termination. The passage has a mud floor. Human remains have been discovered here in the past.

At the base of the cliff under the overhang, there are another two interesting sites. On the left obscured by brambles there is a small entrance about 1.5’ square. This extends for about 10’. On the right there is what appears to be another choked passage.

About 30’ to the left of the overhang at the base of the cliff there is yet another small hole. This has a square cross section and is about 1.5’ wide and about 6’ long.

Walking back to the car I noticed a large entrance behind the Gogarth Abbey Hotel. This has been marked with the legend Toby’s Cave. This could be the cave known as **Ogof Arth**. This cave was not visited this time.

Bedding Plane Cave and Skeleton Cave are particularly interesting as they appear to be the remnants of waterways and a full team visit to these sites with ‘gardening equipment’ would probably be beneficial. †3

Time Gentlemen Please

The Bear, Crickhowell

This isn’t a caving pub and you probably won’t be welcomed if you came in with a muddy face. However they serve a good pint of Bass and a feasible pint of Ruddles.

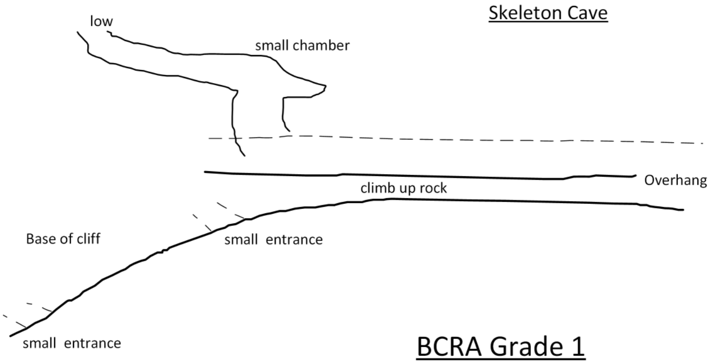
Handy Hints ®

...for the left handed

When standing by the entrance to Gaping Gill, do not under any circumstance fire your SA90 automatic rifle as the spent casing will be ejected painfully into your face - in all likelihood causing you to fall down the entrance pitch.

It's OK.
I'm down.

Skeleton Cave



BCRA Grade 1

Derbyshire Weekend

16th & 17th April 1994
Members present were Robin Griffiths, Dean Mannion & Yours Truly - Brian Davies
Apologies for absence from Robert and Emyr - who very nearly made it.

By Brian Davies

Giant's Hole - 16th April

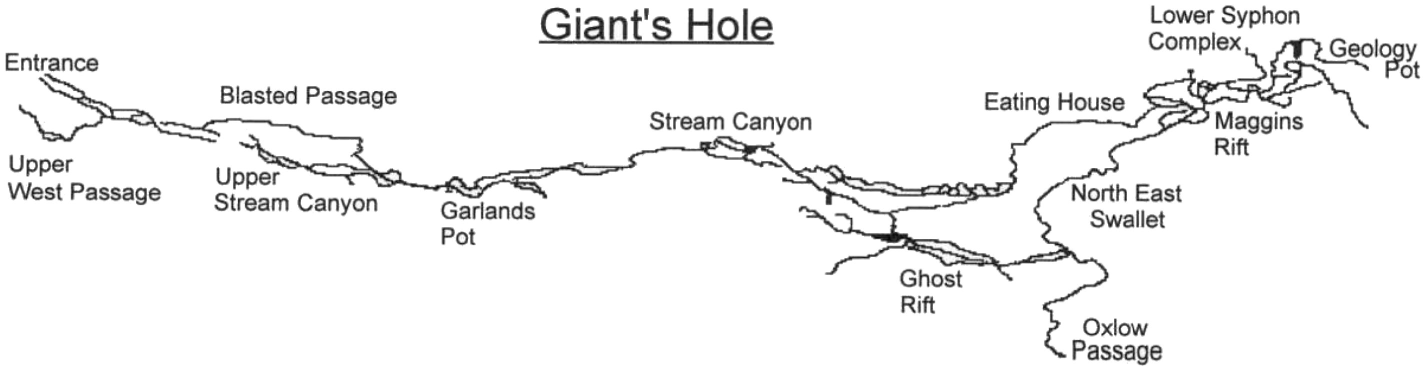
This weekend finds us in Derbyshire, one of my favourite counties and staying in the spa town of Buxton. After a couple of days spent by myself, hill walking in the Dales and visiting the Yorkshire mining museum near Wakefield (to purchase even more old miners lamps), I met up with Dean and Robin as arranged on Saturday morning in Caving Supplies, the only shop worth visiting in Buxton if you're a "Caving Type".

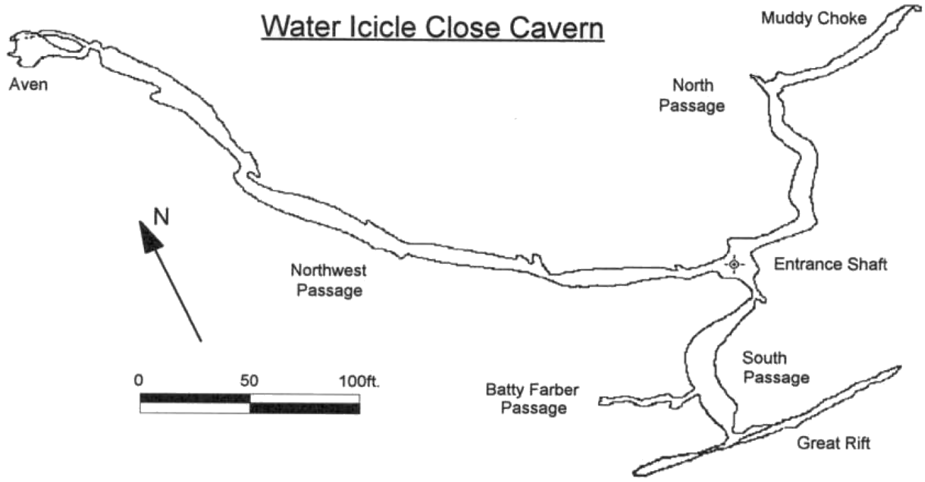
After a few purchasements were made and a 10 metre ladder hired, we were off down the road to Peakshill Farm near Castleton.

Oh by the way, it was suggested that I might write an article about this weekend's trip for the newsletter (Ogofa). Well fine, I suppose, but as I am not accustomed to writing such things I feel I must warn readers that I certainly did not get a GCE in English Literature. I have read previous reports in Ogofa with interest, and have been very impressed with the writing skills of contributors. However, I must point out that you will find this article somewhat different in its approach. You will find no witty prose or deep profound observations on the meaning of life. There will be no clever quotations from the likes of Shaw or Wilde (well not many!). Not even everything will be spilt correctly and my grammar might well be suspect. No indeed. I will adopt a more factual approach, a blow by blow account of how it really happened. There will be no unnecessary verbosity and no attempt will be made to "pad out" the pages to fill up the magazine. Ah yes! Where was I? Off now to Peakshill Farm near Castleton (£1 fee). Donned up with new wet suit- (amazing what you can pick up at the car boot sale) and walked the few hundred metres to Giant's Hole.

The entrance was quite generous in size and the first hundred metres or so passed without the need to bend - Partly because this section has been enlarged by blasting. A couple of small caverns - "Base Camp Chamber" and "Boss Aven"- were passed and photos taken of the splendid decorations. Soon, "Garlands Pot" was reached, the first and only pitch of the day and we had to join the back of a short queue of "cavies" waiting to descend. Garlands Pot is approximately 20' deep and 15' in diameter and has a stream entering from the right. The ladder was attached by Robin to the belay point but not dropped down as we used the one installed by a previous party. This was my first time at descending a flexible ladder, but after a few revolutions at the top I think I got the hang of it. (No pun intended)

Next came the "Crab Walk" - a lengthy sideways amble along the streamway. Along this section are a couple of very small pitches, one of which - "Comic Act Cascade", has a fixed ladder directly in the stream, and another one which could be scrambled up and down with a small amount of effort. At last, the much maligned "Vice" was reached which turned out to be more of a Stroke than a squeeze. Dean managed to progress by slipping under the said ⇨





restriction and had no need to disrobe today much to his relief (and ours. - Ed.). Soon the sump mentioned in conversation with the proprietor of Caving Supplies was reached, and after more photographs, we back tracked for the required 10 metres (or was it 10 yards?) to look for the climb up to "Ghost Rift"- a higher level passage which would take us above the "Crabwalk". We tried several likely looking routes, climbing up several hundred feet at one stage but could not confirm the correct passage so decided to return along the inward route. This was a popular pot and quite a few groups of "Cavies" were passed on the way out, fortunately at points wide enough to allow them passage without the performance of backtracking etc. Back up the ladder and more photos in the decorated caverns before emerging into the warm sunshine. Indeed it was a day, nice enough to put a smile on the face of Apollo. Wot, no crawling , no swimming. What a doddle!

Back now to Buxton and The Haddon Hall Hotel and caravan site as appropriate, for a wash and brush up before a night on the town, searching for the much mentioned in this publication - bitter, and a supper of chips and onion rings.

Water Icicle Close Cavern

Monyash

Sunday 17th April

Whilst awaiting Dean and Robin's arrival in the car park at the Haddon Hall Hotel, I pondered on this newsletter business, and concluded that there are two ways of dealing with it. One is to write something so bad, so inane, as to make the reader rush to the lavatory, Or, to pen something so inspiring, so profound and meaningful as to embarrass other contributors and force them to put pressure onto the editor to veto these works in the future. The choice was made!

Out came the Dynamic Duo looking remarkably fresh for a Sunday morning. The map was consulted and the Water Icicle Close Cavern was located at Grid ref. 161/647.

We travelled to Monyash, drove down a few miles of "Green Lane" and parked alongside another motor caravan already parked there and went for a "reccy", the shaft being only about 150 metres from the van. The shaft had been capped and fitted with a metal cover which was open and a couple of ropes and an aluminium ladder were dangling down into the murky depths. The shaft is approx. 1.5 metres square and apart from a few metres of laid blocks at the top, is driven into solid limestone.

We returned to the vehicles and put on a brew. Whilst taking refreshment another vehicle approached and the driver of same walked over to us. A fellow caver? Or an irate farmer? It was in fact the former who was also planning to "drop" into the mine. A look at the plan of the Mine (not to scale) shows that the shaft enters the centre of a large cavern at the intersection of three natural passages. Was this a lucky shot? No, apparently the location of these passages were already known, having been entered from the surface by means of a natural rift.

Back at the shaft now and Robin installed the SRT line and descended the 105 feet to the bottom (apologies for mixing Metric and real measurements but this is a pre metric mine shaft). On with the abseiling hardware and I descended the shaft and dropped into the dark cavern (Robin's lamp had failed!). Dean soon followed looking resplendent in oversize woolly jumper. The cavern we were in was bell shaped and about 25 feet in diameter. Off this chamber led three inviting tunnels of quite generous size. We selected the North Passage and followed it for about 200 feet until after a turn to the right the mud on the floor of the passage became quite deep and glutinous.

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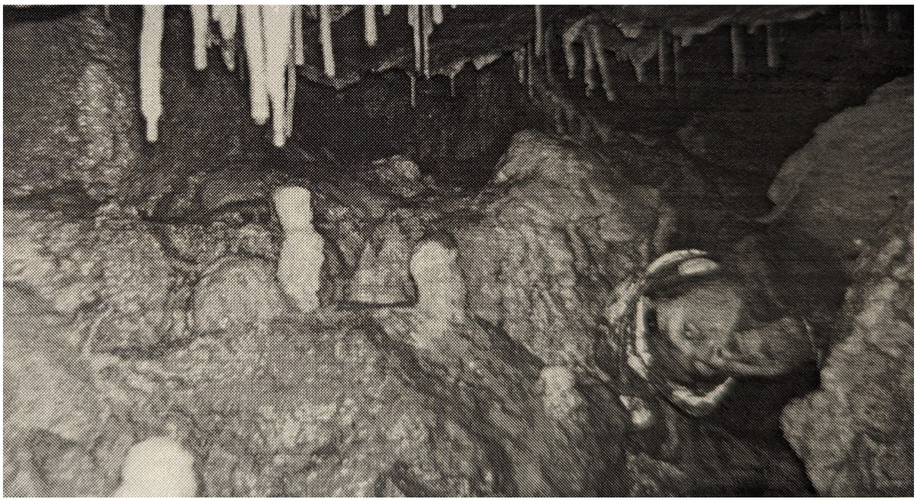
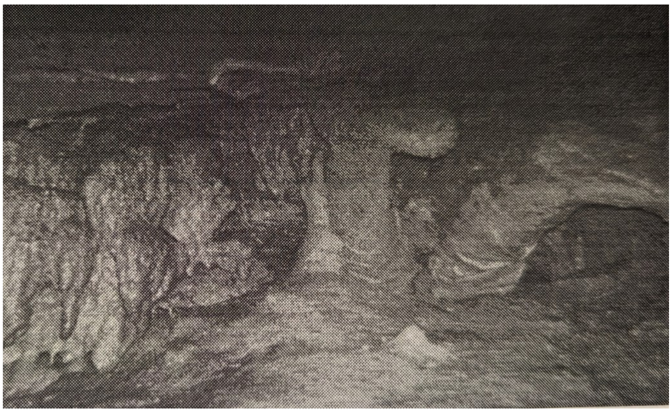


In a few moments the cause of this quagmire became apparent. The aforementioned gentleman and two comrades were engaged in a “dig” at the mud choked end of the tunnel and the excavated material was being deposited further back. The sound of drilling was heard and it transpired that holes were being prepared for blasting away some of the choke. Within a few minutes we had gleaned much information about this and other mines in the area - although possibly a mineral mine in the past, it was more recently used to extract calcite for decorative architectural use. After a couple of photographs of the muddy proceedings were taken, we left them to it and returned to the central cavern.

Back at the shaft we selected the “Northwest Passage” for investigation. This passage at approx. 350 feet long, is the longest of the three and probably the most interesting with fine flowstone deposits and plenty of evidence of mining activity. Along the walls of the tunnels were stacked “Deads”, bits of timber and old wheel barrows etc. Also found were a pair of 145x13 Michelins which at first appeared to be in good condition and were almost on their way to be fitted onto my Horizon, but on closer examination they turned out to have damaged sidewalls. Pity!



At the end of this passage there is a high “Aven” and had it not been for the large amount of loose material present there, would have invited a closer look. Also a few short tight passages radiated from here with much digging work in evidence. Back again at the shaft and the final “South Passage” was entered and followed for approx. 120 feet. From the end of this passage, a high narrow rift led off to the right which I investigated whilst Rob and Dean “rested”. I fol-

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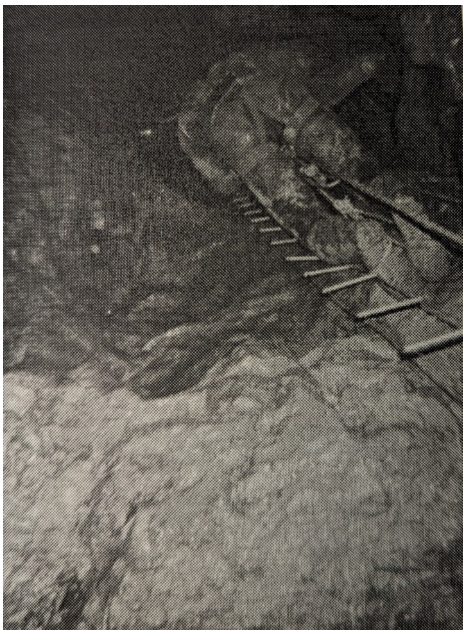
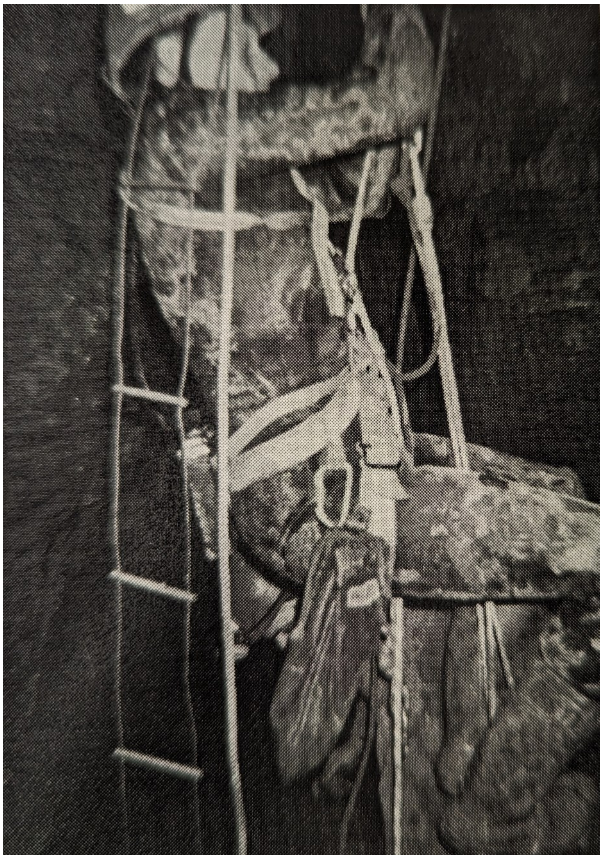




lowed this for several hundred metres (honestly), negotiating rib crushing squeezes, but I was unable to entice Dean and Robin to follow despite my "Wows" and "Ye Gods , I thought I'd seen everything". When I could progress no further I sat down to consider what I was doing down here. Ah! Wasn't it Plato who once said that Pot Holing compels the soul to look downward and lead us from this world into another? I hurriedly returned to main passage!

Once back at the shaft we met the "Digging Gentlemen" again, who were just about to leave the mine. Robin prepared for the Prussik back up the shaft and was gone. We allowed the other chaps to go in front, one of whom had to climb up the aluminium ladder (105') as opposed to ascending the rope because he had fallen off a roof some time earlier?? I was on my way next, having been coached by Dean in the art of Prussiking. It is certainly a strenuous business this prussiking but I was soon safe once more on the surface. Dean followed up and after pulling up the rope (along with a Michelin filled with rocks), we closed the lid and returned to the vehicles and were soon on our way home, stopping briefly for the traditional Sunday pub lunch on the way.

*"Splendid weekend,
When 's the next? "*

'Sticky Brown Liquid'

Aygill Cavern, January 1994
Party: Emyr Rees, Brian Davies, Dean Mannion, Robin Griffiths

By Emyr Rees

Having long associated myself with the club (in my capacity as Entertainment Secretary) I always knew that I'd inevitably have to actually go potholing at some stage. It wasn't that the ardours of long confined spaces particularly worried me, or the excessive drinking sessions which are such an inevitable part of a weekend with the lads. It was the combination of the two things in quick succession which had me worried as Dean, Robin and I sped up the A55 that Friday afternoon.

...shadowy hedges

Distraction wasn't long in arriving. I'd wisely reckoned that my volunteering to drive would limit the alcohol intake but meanwhile Rob and Dean were going for it. By the time we got to Chester, Robin's bladder had become the focus of attention so I pulled into the nearest lay-by. Rob leapt out of the car and headed for some shadowy hedges. Dean and I were only seconds behind him but all of a sudden Rob just seemed to disappear. It was only when Dean yelled that I saw Robin's head right in front of us but at foot level. For a brief moment I thought he'd been decapitated, in fact he'd fallen down a deep, filthy ditch which was practically invisible from the bright lights of the road. It took both of us to drag him out, and I wish now that we'd left him there, because it was only then that the true extent of the damage became apparent. From the knees down Robin was a manurey disaster which we literally had to hose down in the next garage. To this day I still sometimes catch a whiff of Rob's socks which were beyond hope and were abandoned.

...underpants

Rob spent the rest of the trip sitting next to me in the passenger seat wearing only his underpants from the waist down (which I found pretty disturbing in itself I can tell you). But otherwise the rest of the trip was incident free and we met up with Brian in Ingleton with plenty of drinking time in hand.

This was Brian's first trip as well. Both of us were almost complete novices at abseiling and ascending, and so when we landed up in the inevitable real ale pub that night I think we both decided that caution was the better part of valour. However Robin had really perked up by now and Dean was going at the really strong beers like a man possessed (which actually, he probably is). We arrived back at our digs (another pub) just in time to stop the landlord turning the pumps off - this was going to be a long night. Actually after all the excitement Rob didn't last very long (probably had to go and scrape the manure from underneath his toe-nails), but it was 2.30a.m. before I said good-night to a very pissed Dean and a very patient landlord.

...sticky brown liquid

The next morning I felt great - well no I didn't really, I was a bit hung over but put a brave face on

⇨

it. In the next room though strange things had happened in the night. Dean awoke to find a strange "sticky brown liquid" all over his pillow - his hair was matted to it! What could this be? And why couldn't Dean get out of bed for breakfast? It was obvious, as Dean himself soon pointed out to us; the sticky brown liquid was coffee which Robin must have poured over Dean's head during the night. It's strange the effect coffee has on people isn't it?

Onwards ever onwards as the four of us (including a shaky but resolute Dean) drove the short distance to the entrance of Aygill - the club's very own pot. A previous sourjourn by club members had been hampered by a lack of navigational data and after having visited all the dead ends had ended at the second descent. This time everything would be different - Robin had a map.

...wheezes

From the outset the going was a little bit tighter than I had anticipated. There was only the occasional squeeze though and we made it to the first descent in about 20 minutes (this had taken the previous group 3 hours, but I was trying to forget about that). By now though Dean was obviously struggling. The sound of his pained wheezes and gasps as we waited for him to catch up with us at the top of the descent almost reduced me to tears (of laughter). He could go no further and decided that he would have a little sleep whilst we carried on. I have to admit that this set of circumstances did have me worried for a while; Here were Brian and I, two complete novices with only Robin to guide and advise us - the man who still retains the abseiling speed record on the Plas Menai climbing wall (0.5s). By now though the spirit of the whole thing was getting the better of me.

After some meticulous preparatory work by old Robbo the descent was navigated painlessly and we were able to continue for the first time in an upright position. After a further descent we came across running water but this never rose much above welly level. We soon came to the sump where I was pleased to find that things got quite muddy. Nostalgia soon overtook me - I was never really any good at rugby but I used to love getting covered in mud. This was really good mud as well, very consistent, almost clean.

At the very end of our travels where only dynamite or severe dieting could take us any further we found a big curtain (I can't explain now), posed for some muddy photos, and turned back.

...fruit cakes

The return journey was quicker but more arduous - that's right it's up-hill on the way back! We found Dean safely in the car and fully recovered (bless him). That night I decided to celebrate my survival and drink loads of beer myself. Luckily, the following morning all I had to face was a showcave (the history of which proved to me once again what a bunch of complete fruit cakes potholers are) before heading home.

The Dinorwic Raft Race

... continued from page 5

By Emyr Rees

As a Caving Club we are very lucky to have a number of highly skilled Engineers amongst us. Their opinion is always relied upon when it comes to anything technical or scientific, or at least it was.

Of the aforementioned experts, Brian and Dean both work at Dinorwig Power Station, Llanberis. It has now been ten years since the Power Station was opened and as part of the celebrations it was decided to hold an Open Day together with various entertainments, including a Raft Race.

It was inevitable really that the Caving Club should enter this competition. Brian and Dean were soon hard at work trying to come up with the optimum design for the craft. This was then assembled using garbage and left-overs, in the very heart of the Power Station (purely in their own time of course).

The concept that lay behind this craft's propulsion system was indeed, truly innovative. I am quite confident that its like will never be seen again. As illustrated in the diagram, of the six crew, the two stationed at the front had a conventional role ie. a pair of paddles. It was at the rear of the machine that the "Engine Room" was situated. Here it was estimated that the strength of four men would be required to pull an ⇨

aluminium frame backwards and forwards. This in turn drove the front end of a large black flap up and down beneath the water. With a flap of the correct tensile strength, a flipper like motion would generate an enormous amount of forward thrust. Or so they thought.

In fact during our one and only practice session (after our Llangollen explorations), our craft seemed to remain worryingly static in the water. It was decided however that only a few minor adjustments were necessary, and just in case, we should all take paddles along as well.

The great day arrived, and so did a lot of seemingly highly proficient and experienced Raft Racers. Some of their craft were very impressive, seating as many as twenty people. However, we took pride in the distinctiveness of our little six seater. Little did they know about our secret propulsion system we thought. Robin had also made a very fine flag for our Raft, complete with the Club's insignia (The Black Bat). Faced with a headwind we knew that this would affect our aerodynamics but felt that it lessened our advantage only slightly. Better to make a race of it we thought, sportingly.

Later on, after the race itself, much was made of the fact that we had not managed to reach the starting line when the starter's gun went off. To be honest, although we were only some forty yards away, I did not even hear the starter's gun. I just turned around and saw all the other Rafts disappearing off into the distance.

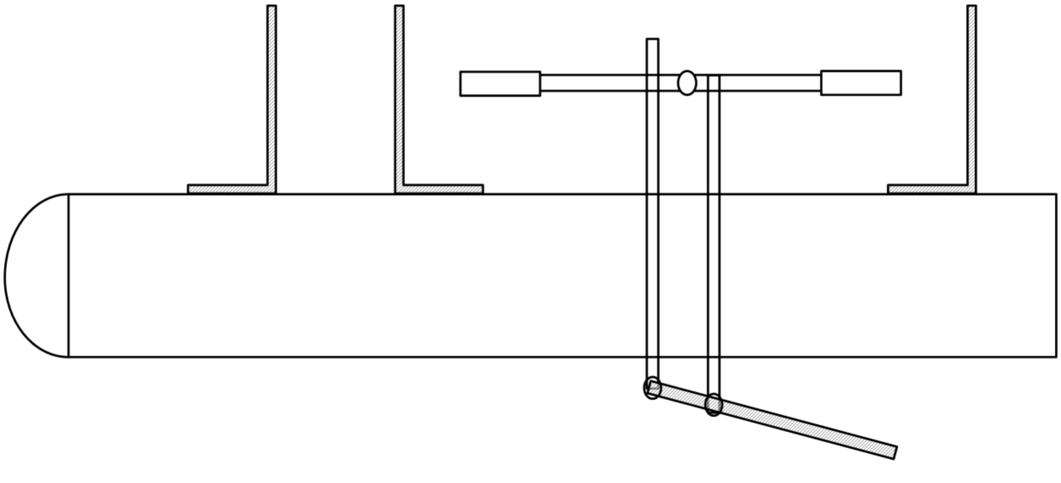
To be fair we did have a go at it, but it became clear very early on that this was not going to be our day. After half an hour the black flap was still going up and down but we were only half way across the lake and the winning teams had finished ten minutes ago. We were accompanied across the lake by a canoeist and our pathetically slow rate of progress was reflected in the fact that he seemed to be following us without even paddling! Every time I looked at him, he was sitting there, looking rather dejected with paddles sitting idly across his canoe.

It was here at about the half way point that the recriminations started. The crew blamed the designers and the designers blamed the crew. The whole thing was turning quite sour and sad until our spirits were raised inexorably when Albert fell in. Albert was the one member of the crew who was not a member of the Caving Club. He was a colleague of the design team and sabotage was mentioned later as the possible reason that his seat suddenly lunged sideways, throwing the unfortunate Albert into the icy waters. He managed to scramble back on but his position on the craft was now very insecure. He fell in again about five minutes later and it was almost just as funny.

In an effort to salvage some pride from this debacle we were all now pinning our hopes on capturing the price for the "Best Dressed Raft". In keeping with out status we were all clad in our caving gear, complete with lamps and helmets. Robin's flag had progressively disintegrated during our long journey across the lake. Flakes of white paint marked our rather erratic route. To our immense disappointment, by the time we reached the finishing line nearly all the crowds had gone home. Only one other team from the Power Station had stayed behind to jeer at us. They had even awarded the prize for Best Dressed Craft in our absence, while we were still out on the lake.

With battered pride we drew our war torn craft from the waters. It was later taken to its final resting ground, somewhere in the depths of the Power Station where Brian and Dean now deny all knowledge of it.

It took a good few pints that night for us to overcome our grief. At least now I know why the electricity bills are so expensive.



OS Maps and Databases

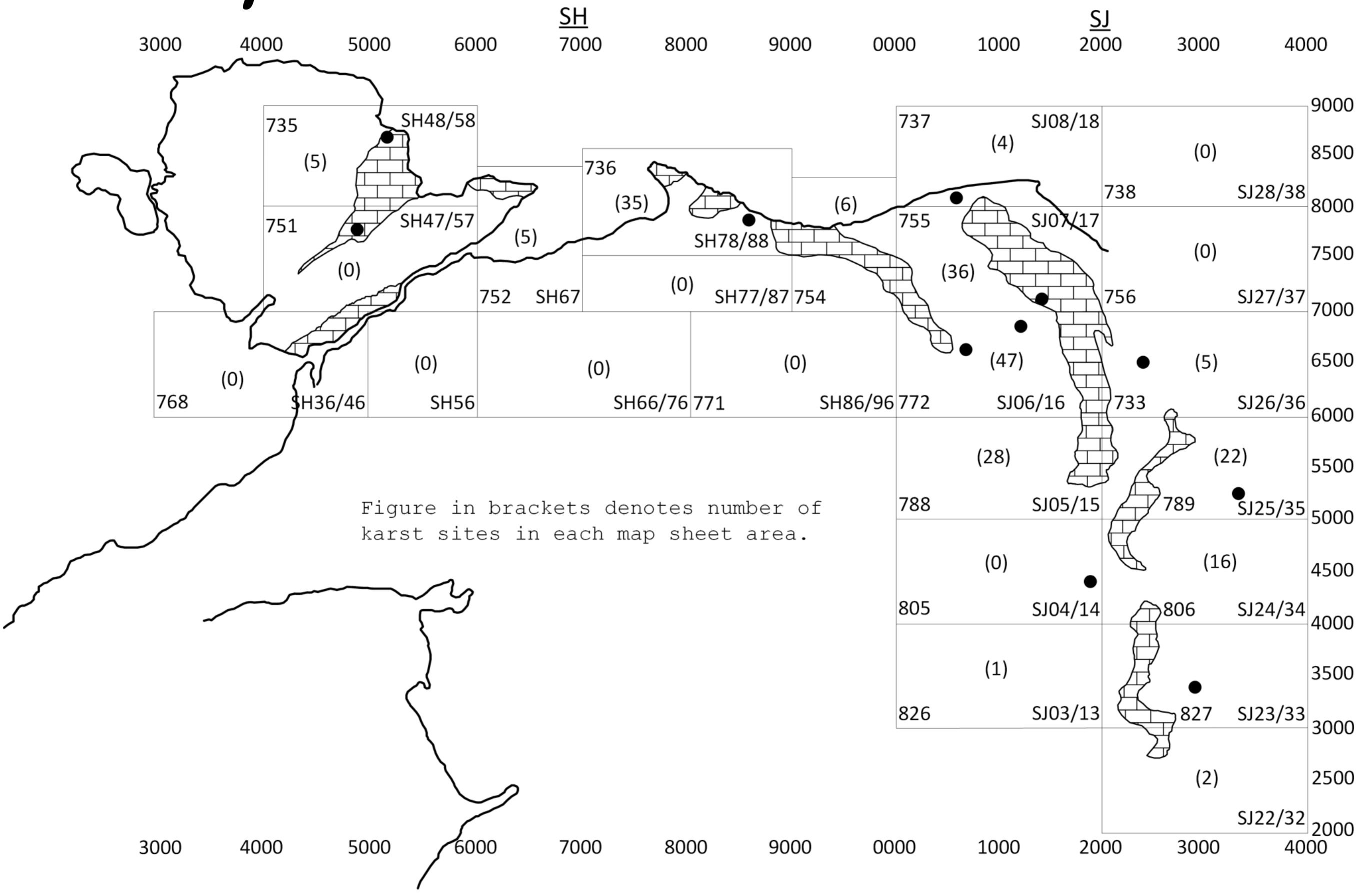


Figure in brackets denotes number of karst sites in each map sheet area.

Computers can be quite handy at times. When I recently decided to buy some Ordnance Survey Pathfinder 1:25,000 maps to help me investigate the caves of Clwyd and Gwynedd, I was naturally concerned that I bought only the maps containing the caves. As approximately 40 Pathfinder maps cover North Wales, this is easier said than done. Until that is I remembered that my trusty computer contains a list of the 200 odd North Wales sites together with their grid references (as part of the Cave Registry). It was a doddle to set up a little query in Access to count the number of caves situated on each map sheet. A couple of minutes later I had a priority list of the five most desirable maps to purchase. An hour later and £16.00 poorer I had the maps in my hand!

As you can see from the above figure, the number of cave sites on each map sheet is as shown. Another little query that I ran for fun was one calculating the number of caves over 30m, 100m and 500m long found on each map.

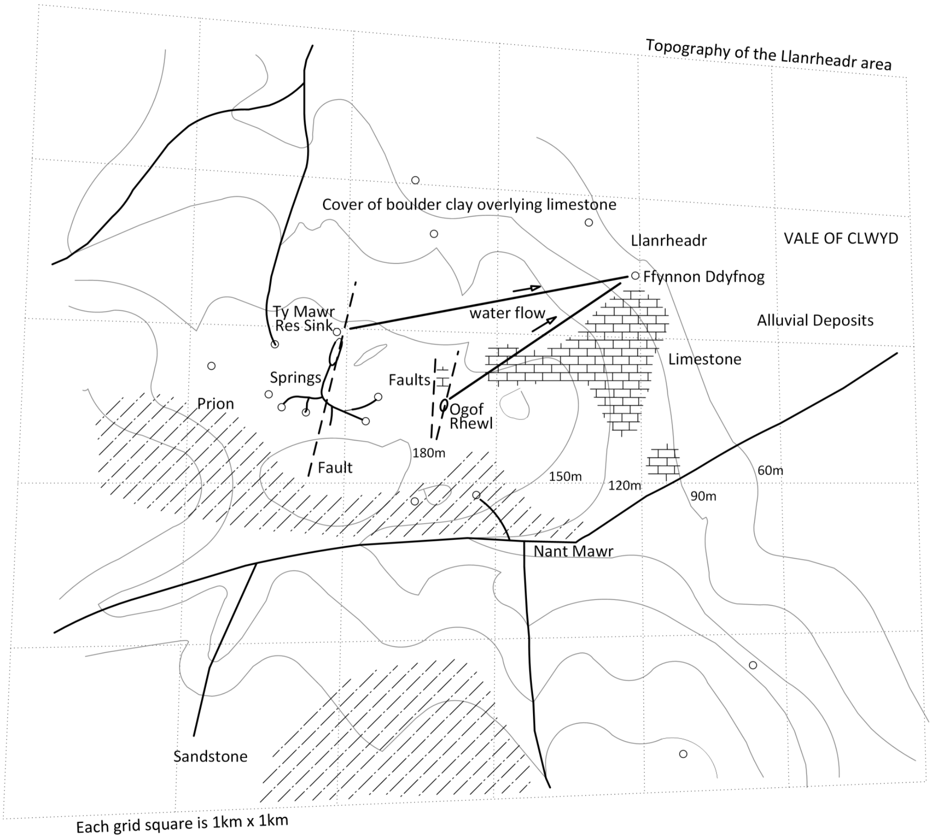
Map No.	Cave Sites	Cave Sites (>30m)	Cave Sites (>100m)	Cave Sites (>30m)
735	5	1	0	0
752	5	0	0	0
736	35	1	0	0
754	6	2	1	0
737	4	2	1	0
755	36	5	2	0
772	47	11	7	2
773	5	0	0	0
788	28	6	2	1
789	22	8	6	4
806	16	3	2	0
826	1	0	0	0
827	2	1	1	0
SJ/22/23	1	1	1	0

No major surprises there! The following cave sites as listed overleaf are now on my computer database. Only the name, location and grid reference are shown here.

Aber Eilun Sink, Loggerheads, SJ 1916 6293
Adit Cave, Cilcain, SJ 1935 6565
Afon Meirchion Cave, Trefnant, SJ 0218 6941
Bedding Plane Cave, Great Orme, SH 7716 8240
Belgrave Mine, Llanferres, SJ 1950 5928
Blaen-y-Nant Adit, Llanferres, SJ 1880 5920
Brasgyll Caves, Llanefydd, SJ 0060 7145
Brown Quarry Caves, Holywell, SJ 1710 7580
Bryn Alyn Cave 10, Eryrys, SJ 2023 5935
Bryn Alyn Cave 2, Eryrys, SJ 1986 5940
Bryn Alyn Cave 3, Eryrys, SJ 1975 5927
Bryn Alyn Cave 4, Eryrys, SJ 1980 5930
Bryn Alyn Cave 5, Eryrys, SJ 1980 5930
Bryn Alyn Cave 6, Eryrys, SJ 1997 5896
Bryn Alyn Cave 7, Eryrys, SJ 2023 5935
Bryn Alyn Cave 8, Eryrys, SJ 2023 5935
Bryn Alyn Cave 9, Eryrys, SJ 2023 5935
Bryn Bowlio Sink, Llanferres, SJ 1870 6155
Brynglas Farm Sink, Dyserth, SJ 0878 7730
Bryngwyn Quarry Cave, Maeshafn, SJ 2140 6150
BS Pot, Llanefydd, SJ 0060 7100
Burley Hill Quarry Cave, Eryrys, SJ 2040 5990
Bwlch y Llwynog, Great Orme, SH 7790 8370
Castell Cawr Caves, Abergele, SH 9370 7657
Castle Cave, Llanarmon yn Ial, SJ 1930 5618
Cathedral Cave, Llannefydd, SJ 0057 7129
Cathole N. Lode Chambers, Logghds., SJ 1950 6300
Cefn Cave, Cefn, SJ 0207 7053
Cefn Mawr Shaft, Loggerheads, SJ 1980 6320
Cefn Natural Arch, Cefn, SJ 0210 7040
Cefn yr Ogof Caves, Abergele Rural, SH 9150 7795
Celyn Mali Shakehole, Cilcain, SJ 1728 6570
Chancewell Pot, Cilcain, SJ 1861 6826
Cilcain Bridge Shakehole, Cilcain, SJ 1878 6510
Cilcain Cave 2, Cilcain, SJ 1850 6510
Cilcain Cave, Cilcain, SJ 1810 6495
Colwyn Old Road Cave, Little Orme, SH 8125 8220
Coppy Cave, Denbigh, SJ 0445 6667
Corkscrew Cave, Great Orme, SH 7732 8240
D.H. Cave, Hendre, Mold, SJ 2004 6754
Dead Duck Cave, Alyn Gorge, SJ 1890 6540
Dell Cave, Trefnant, SJ 0225 6916
Dinorben Farm Sink, St George, SH 9681 7468
Dulas Resurgence, Dyserth, SH 9084 7770
Dutchman's Cave, Great Orme, SH 7800 8390
Dwarf Cave, Meliden, SJ 0680 8110
Dyserth Castle Caves, Dyserth, SJ 0660 7880
Ebbs Cave, Denbigh, SJ 0440 6669
Eglwys Wen, Little Orme, SH 8150 8240
Eryrys Hill Cave, Eryrys, SJ 1960 5770
Eryrys Shakeholes, Eryrys, SJ 2125 5850
Ffynnon Asaph, Dyserth, SJ 0749 7894
Ffynnon Beuno Caves, Tremeirchion, SJ 0853 7242
Ffynnon Caseg, Great Orme, SH 7540 8409
Ffynnon Ddyfnog, Llanrhaeadr, SJ 0795 6335
Ffynnon Deg, Caerwys, SJ 1334 7327
Ffynnon Dwlban, Red Wharf Bay, SH 5285 8215
Ffynnon Garmon, Llanarmon-yn-Ial, SJ 1912 5651
Ffynnon Gogarth, Great Orme, SH 7637 8307
Ffynnon Lleinw, Cilcain, SJ 1930 6773
Ffynnon Llygaid, Great Orme, SH 7615 8319
Ffynnon Powel, Great Orme, SH 7711 8357
Ffynnon Rhufeinig, Great Orme, SH 7655 8386
Ffynnon Wen, Minera, SJ 2605 5193
Ffynnon Wenwyl, Llanarmon-yn-Ial, SJ 1877 5716
Ffynnon y Galchog, Great Orme, SH 7775 8367
Fish Cave, Meliden, SJ 0680 8119
Fourteen Swallets, Llanarmon, SJ 1991 5033
Foxhole's Swallets, Ludlow, SO 6410 8034
Galltfaenen Cave, Trefnant, SJ 0230 7020
Gas Pot, Esclusham Mountain, SJ 2470 5085
Glan Alyn Dig, Loggerheads, SJ 1953 6294
Glasford's Stream Passage, Ludlow, SO 6560 8030
Gop Caves, Trelawnyd, SJ 0865 8008
Graig Cave, Llandegla, SJ 2016 5054
Graig Fechan Cave, Graig Fechan, SJ 1480 5450
Grange Farm Caves, Pantasaph, SJ 1725 7620
Gwaenysgor Cave, Gwaenysgor, SJ 0802 8042
Gwter Siani, Esclusham Mountain, SJ 2463 4982
Hendre Fawr Sink, Dyserth, SJ 0990 7716
Hersedd Well, Hendre, SJ 1880 6910
Hesp Alyn Lane Sink, Cilcain, SJ 1830 6560
Holly Bush Cave, Alyn Gorge, SJ 1910 6540
Holywell Boat Level, Holywell, SJ 1848 7648
Hornby Cave, Great Orme, SH 7520 8418
Jock's Pot, Llannefydd, SJ 0060 7130
Kendrick's Caves, Great Orme, SH 7800 8284
Leet Caves, Pantwymyn, SJ 1882 6450
Leet Footpath Cave, Pantwymyn, SJ 1880 6501
Letterbox Cave, Little Orme, SH 8135 8236
Limekiln Cave, World's End, SJ 2330 4788
Little Orme Cave 1, Little Orme, SH 8150 8240
Little Orme Cave 2, Little Orme, SH 8150 8240
Little Orme Cave 3, Little Orme, SH 8150 8240
Llanarmon Cave, Llanarmon-yn-Ial, SJ 1932 5629
Llanarmon Sinks, Llanarmon-yn-Ial, SJ 1853 5590
Llandudno Mine Caves, Great Orme, SH 7710 8320
Llandudno North Adit, Great Orme, SH 7645 8417
Llech Cave, Great Orme, SH 7550 8435
Llewelyn's Cave, Aberedw, SO 0850 4680
Lloches yr Afr, Great Orme, SH 7792 8382
Llyn Ochin Pot, Eryrys, SJ 2155 5835
Lodge Farm Sink, Denbigh, SJ 0372 6682
Loggerheads Cave, Loggerheads, SJ 1990 6280
Loggerheads Quarry Caves, Lgghds., SJ 2010 6250
Loo Cave, Pantwymyn, SJ 1927 6338
Lot Farm Shaft, Eryrys, SJ 1984 5828
Lower Ceiriog Cave, Weston Rhyn, SJ 2652 3746
Lynx Cave, Eryrys, SJ 1974 5936
Maeshafn Cave, Llanferres, SJ 1980 6055
Maeshafn Mine Chambers, Maeshafn, SJ 1981 6110
Maeshafn Shakeholes, Maeshafn, SJ 2020 6070
Martha's Shaft, Minera, SJ 2430 4960
Milwr Tunnel, Bagillt, SJ 2215 7543
Minera Quarry Caves, Minera, SJ 2483 5170
Minera Quarry Caves, Minera, SJ 2560 5190
Miriam's Cave, Great Orme, SH 7641 8250
Moel Hiraddug Cave, Dyserth, SJ 0620 7890
Mount Pleasant Cave, Alyn Valley, SJ 1920 5980
Nant Adda Adit, Eryrys, SJ 1970 5770
Nant Gain Swallow Holes, Cilcain, SJ 1792 6488
Nant-y-Fuach Rock Shelter, Dyserth, SJ 0684 7979
Nash Scar Quarry Cave, Presteigne, SO 3020 6230
New Passage Pot, Esclusham Mt., SJ 2550 5200
No name 2, Gwaenysgor, SJ 0709 8171
Oerog Spring, Llangollen, SJ 2554 4212
Ogof Abaty, Great Orme, SH 7720 8228
Ogof Afon Alun, Tan-y-Graig, SJ 1900 6500
Ogof Arth|Toby's Cave, Great Orme, SH 7693 8233
Ogof Caseg, Great Orme, SH 7539 8408
Ogof Cefn y Gist 2, Eglwyseg Mountain, SJ 2331 4900
Ogof Cefn y Gist 3, Eglwyseg Mountain, SJ 2330 4910
Ogof Cefn y Gist, Esclusham Mountain, SJ 2331 4895
Ogof Colomen, Great Orme, SH 7784 8384
Ogof Colomendy, Loggerheads, SJ 2022 6275
Ogof Cythreuliaid, Little Orme, SH 8150 8240
Ogof Defaid, Great Orme, SH 7712 8240
Ogof Deuben, Great Orme, SH 7753 8293
Ogof Dulas, Cefn yr Ogof Hill, SH 9170 7690
Ogof Dydd Byraf, Minera, SJ 2546 5231
Ogof Dyniewaid, Little Orme, SH 8170 8274
Ogof Enfys, Gwernmynydd, SJ 2140 6230
Ogof Goleydy Gogarth, Great Orme, SH 7556 8434
Ogof Gwen Goch, Moel Hiraddug, SJ 0640 7820
Ogof Gwylan, Great Orme, SH 7554 8426
Ogof Hafnant, Great Orme, SH 7641 8428
Ogof Hanner Dydd, Great Orme, SH 7809 8363
Ogof Hen Ffynhonau, Alyn Gorge, SJ 1910 6550
Ogof Hesp Alyn, Alyn Gorge, SJ 1927 6561
Ogof Llanymynech, Llanymynech, SJ 2649 2222
Ogof Llyn Du, Esclusham Mountain, SJ 2550 5200
Ogof Llyn Parc, Esclusham Mountain, SJ 2494 5067
Ogof Melwyn, Minera, SJ 2542 5200
Ogof Moryn, Moelfre, SH 5059 8714
Ogof Mwd, Eglwyeg Mountain, SJ 2250 4540
Ogof Mwynglawdd, Minera, SJ 2503 5137
Ogof Nadolig, Cilcain, SJ 1903 6555
Ogof Noeth, Eglwyseg Mountain, SJ 2340 4710
Ogof Pant-y-Wennol, Penrhyn Side, SH 8080 8161
Ogof Pistyll Gwyn 1, Llanarmon, SJ 1910 5750
Ogof Pistyll Gwyn 2, Llanarmon, SJ 1900 5760
Ogof Pistyll Gwyn 3, Llanarmon, SJ 1910 5760
Ogof Porth-y-Helyg, Great Orme, SH 7747 8380
Ogof Rhewl, Llanrhaeadr, SJ 0660 6252
Ogof Rhiwledyn, Little Orme, SH 8153 8269
Ogof Tan-y-Bryn, Penrhyn Side, SH 7994 8160
Ogof Tudno, Great Orme, SH 7643 8416
Ogof yr Iwrch, Llanferres, SJ 1890 5930
Old North Rising, Cilcain, SJ 1910 6557
Orchid Cave, Maeshafn, SJ 2000 6070
Oreton Rising, Oreton, SO 6532 8037
Park Fm. Swallow Holes, Escl. Mt., SJ 2500 5155
Park Western Shaft, Minera, SJ 2532 5118
Penmon Sea Arch, Penmon, SH 6386 8140
Penmon Sink, Penmon, SH 6300 8070
Perthi Chwareu Cvs., Llanarmon-yn-Ial, SJ 1879 5363
Pink Farm Spring, Great Orme, SH 7742 8361
Plas Captain Sink, Trelawnyd, SJ 1130 7780
Plas Heaton Cave, Henllan, SJ 0320 6911
Pont Newydd Caves, Cefn, SJ 0154 7103
Pont Newydd Rising, Cilcain, SJ 1868 6500
Pont y Glyn Diffwys Caves, Llangwm, SH 9920 4430
Pont y Trap Rising, Cefn, SJ 0227 7031
Printing Press Cave, Little Orme, SH 8132 8250
Prospect Terrace Shaft, Great Orme, SH 7697 8303
Quarry Cave, Dyserth, SJ 0630 7880
Reids Shaft Caves, Maerdy, SJ 2652 5158
Resurgence Cave, Llangollen, SJ 2440 4125
Rhosddigre Caves, Llandegla, SJ 1869 5331
Rhydlydan Risings, Caerwys, SJ 1374 7364
Saint George's Cave, Abergele, SH 9690 7610
Scouse Pot, Maeshafn, SJ 1960 5950
Scree Cave, Dyserth, SJ 0590 8030
Seven Springs, Llanferres, SJ 1908 5972
Siambr Wen Caves, Cilcain, SJ 1754 6750
Siambr Wen Sink, Cilcain, SJ 1705 6722
Skeleton Cave, Great Orme, SH 7650 8265
Skull Pot, Alyn Gorge, SJ 1930 6550
St Beuno's Well, Holywell, SJ 1841 7619
St Tudno's Well, Great Orme, SH 7706 8378
St. Mary's Well, Cefn, SJ 0294 7106
St. Michael's Well, Caerwys, SJ 1228 7291
St. Winifred's Well, Holywell, SJ 1851 7629
Stackyard Cave, Llanarmon, SJ 1853 5550
Tan y Graig Sink, Alyn Gorge, SJ 1932 6322
Thomas Evans Shaft, Eryrys, SJ 2024 5808
T-Quarry Cave, Cilcain, SJ 1814 6537
Tramps Cave, Maeshafn, SJ 2103 6200
Trevor Resurgence Cave, Trevor, SJ 2615 4206
Trevor Rocks Cave East, Trevor, SJ 2399 4300
Trevor Uchaf Caves, Trevor, SJ 2449 4240
Truck Mill Cave, Oreton, SO 6583 8045
Twll Ebbs, Llanarmon yn Ial, SJ 1994 5510
Ty Canol Sink, Brynteg, SH 4975 8217
Ty Mawr Reservoir Sink, Prion, SJ 0594 6302
Tyllau Brwyn, Great Orme, SH 7545 8408
Tyn y Graig, Little Orme, SH 8150 8240
Un-Named Cave, Denbigh, SJ 0400 6700
Upper Ceiriog Cave, Weston Rhyn, SJ 2490 3680
Upper Meirchion Cave, Cefn, SJ 0218 6917
Wedding Cave, Bwlchgwyn, SJ 2650 5405
Westminster Mine|Bog Mine, Eryrys, SJ 2060 5710
White Horse Cave, Cilcain, SJ 1865 6500
White Quarry Cave 1, Whitford, SJ 1671 7593
White Quarry Cave 10, Whitford, SJ 1660 7598
White Quarry Cave 11, Whitford, SJ 1666 7591
White Quarry Cave 2, Whitford, SJ 1670 7594
White Quarry Cave 3, Whitford, SJ 1669 7600
White Quarry Cave 4, Whitford, SJ 1667 7600
White Quarry Cave 5, Whitford, SJ 1666 7600
White Quarry Cave 6, Whitford, SJ 1663 7599
White Quarry Cave 7, Whitford, SJ 1660 7600
White Quarry Cave 8, Whitford, SJ 1675 7598
White Quarry Cave 9, Whitford, SJ 1670 7589
World's End Cave 1, Llangollen Rural, SJ 2340 4770
World's End Cave 2, Llangollen Rural, SJ 2342 4768
World's End Cave 3, Llangollen Rural, SJ 2342 4768
World's End Cave 4, Llangollen Rural, SJ 2343 4767

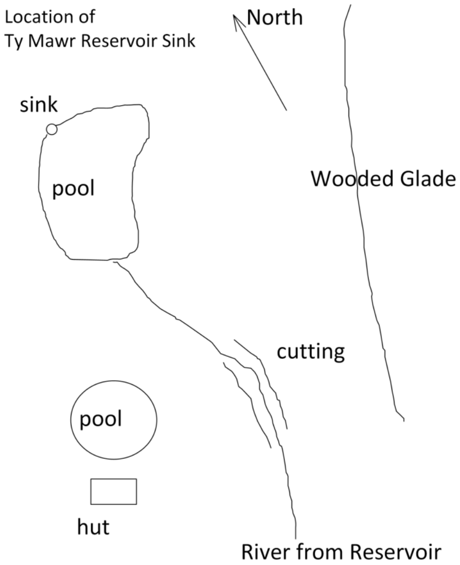
Caves of the Denbigh area

Date: 2nd July 1994



Each grid square is 1km x 1km

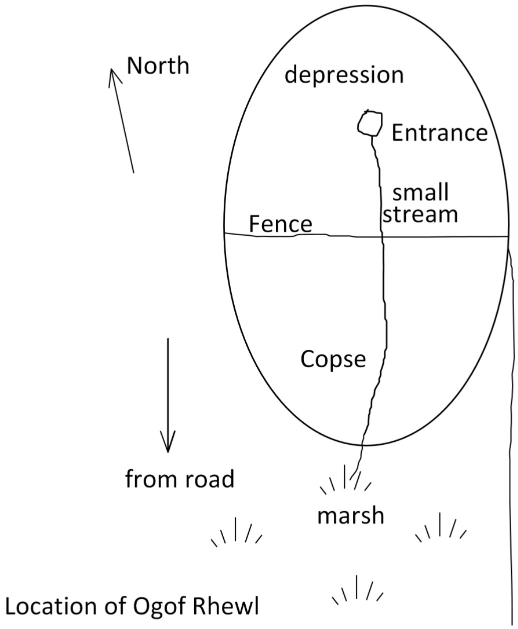
We were supposed to explore various copper mines in Snowdonia but for one reason or another this failed to materialise. Undaunted I decided to have a trundle over to Clwyd to have a look at a few caves in the Denbigh area. Three ice lollies later and 4 OS maps better off I was driving along some narrow lanes to the south of Denbigh looking for **Ty Mawr Reservoir Sink** (SJ05946302) - Altitude 172m in the vicinity of Llanrhaeadr. The reservoir is marked on the Pathfinder 772 map. I parked near a bridleway and headed off down the bridleway and across a few fields to a shallow wooded valley. I followed this southwards and reached a shallow pool lying about 50m to the north of the reservoir itself. The pool was about 20' by 30' and 1' deep. At the north west end of this pool at the specified grid location the water sinks amid some twigs with a gurgling sound. I am not certain whether this is the sink referred to in the *Concise Caves of North Wales* as this states that *"the sink was dug giving access to 40' of passage"*. The CCNW suggests that the sink may be next to the reservoir itself at the north east end although the grid reference would then be incorrect.



Water from the main reservoir enters the pool via an artificial drainage channel. All the water exiting from the pool does so via the sink and the valley is dry below this point. In fact there is no trace of a river bed further north from the sink. This sink is particularly interesting as the water sinking here resurges at Ffynnon Ddyfnog in the village of Llanrhaeadr 2km to the east and 100m lower down. It will be interesting to obtain confirmation about this site as this together with the resurgence of Ffynnon Ddyfnog and the other feeder - Ogof Rhewl forms a well defined underground drainage system far removed from any other known cave system. A number of springs and wells to the south provide water for the reservoir. As there is little relief to the surrounding area (see map) it is surprising that such a reservoir can be sustained.

Next stop was **Ogof Rhewl** SJ06606252 which lies about a kilometer to the south east from Ty Mawr Reservoir Sink. The cave lies about 100 metres to the north of the road from Prion to Llanrhaeadr in a shallow depression just to the north of a small copse. The entrance is a 4' by 4' hole in the floor and is covered by a couple of iron gates. A small stream, whose source is a bog about 40m to the south enters the entrance. I was able to squeeze under the gate to crawl along the entrance passage which is 3' high

⇨

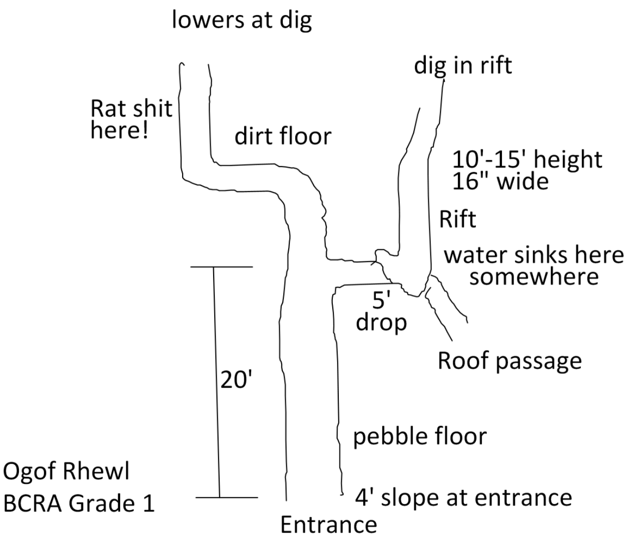


Location of Ogof Rhewl

by 3’ wide with a floor consisting of small rocks. A trickle of water flows along this part.

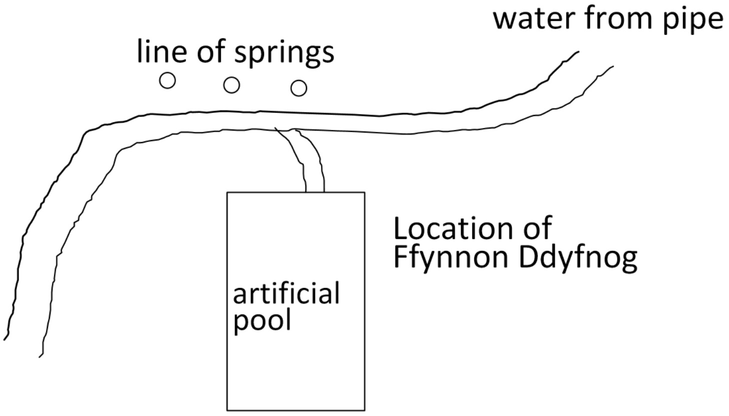
After about 20ft there is a junction to the right. Onwards slopes slightly upwards along a dirt floor around two ninety degree bends. After the second bend there was a plastic bag on the floor covered in what looked suspiciously like rat shit ! Thinking about nasty things like Weil’s Disease I turned around after making a few notes. The passage continues for what looks like another 20’ - 30’ with smaller dimensions to a choked dig.

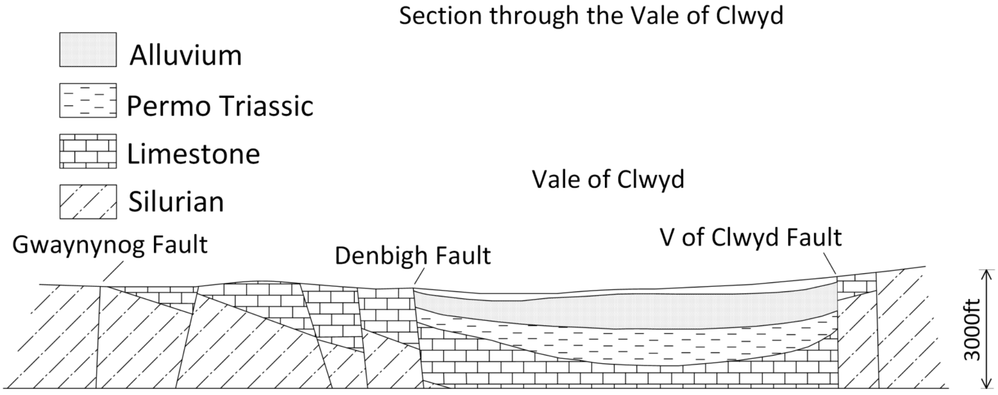
Back at the junction, the passage together with the small streamlet (dry July weather) drops about 5’ into a narrow rift. This is about 18” wide and up to about 15’ in height. There is quite a bit of evidence of solutional activity in this part of the cave with a number of water worn cavities being seen. Above the drop at roof level there is a low passage about 14” high and 2’ wide progressing for about 10’ . The floor of the rift itself consists of fairly wet mud and can be followed for about 20’ over a couple of obstacles to a dirt choke. There are quite a few digging implements including a plank and a bucket in this part of the cave. Various nooks and crannies look as though they could be dug. A fault runs through the cave and it is likely that this in part is responsible for the rift.



The cave seems remarkably well formed given its position in this part of the world. The water sinking here also resurges at Ffynnon Ddyfnog about 1200m away and about 100m lower down.

The next site visited was the resurgence of **Ffynnon Ddyfnog** SJ07956335 in the village of Llanrhaeadr. Coming down the hill from Rhewl into Llanrhaeadr there is a vicarage on the right. To get to the spring follow the road to the vicarage until a green lane junction is met on the left. Following this there is a gap in the wall on the left. A dirt path leads down a wooded glen to the spring. Water emanates from the ⇨





spring through rocks at about 3 points spread over a distance of about 15'. No open passage could be seen. An estimated 60l/min flows from the spring (dry early July). Water from the spring feeds an artificial pool about 12' x 7' and about 4' deep.

These three cave features are very intriguing. The surrounding country shows little sign of being limestone, there being virtually no outcrops as shown on the accompanying figure. The area is extensively covered in glacial drift (boulder clay) and there are a large number of drumlins in evidence.

On the way back home I stopped off for a look at **Coppy Cave** SJ04406670 just outside Denbigh on the road to Henllan. This is in a limestone outcrop behind Coppy Farm about 20' to the right of the fence. The cave is a rock shelter type arrangement about 7' high, 10' wide and 4' deep with some dirt fill. There appears to be a tight passage at floor level through the fill which extends inwards for a few feet. There are chunks of stalagmite in the dirt by the entrance. Another couple of fissures also show some signs of calcite formations. The outcrop is about 30' high and extends over a distance of about 200 metres. [†4] Unfortunately as so often happens when searching for caves in North Wales, this was probably not the Coppy Cave. Coppy Cave itself is apparently further north in the outcrop and is a low passage at ground level.

Just for good measure I had a look at **Dell Cave** SJ02256916 before going home. This is associated with the Afon Meirchion caves - this area being amongst the first to be investigated in North Wales. The entrance is large being 20' wide by 15' high. The entrance is at the end of a fairly deep gully in the woods. On the left after the entrance there was a low passage extending for about 10' on the left. Within about 20', the passage reduced to 6' x 6' dimensions and further on got even smaller with piles of branches and rubbish across the passage. There was a fair amount of silt deposits on the sides of the passage. During the winter a stream flows into the cave. Given the size of the entrance and the valley leading into the cave it is likely that there is a fairly substantial cave system between here and Afon Meirchion.

Lower down the woods on the banks of the River Meirchion are another two caves - Afon Meirchion Cave (flood resurgence for Dell Cave) and Upper Meirchion Cave. I had a quick search for these, but these were not located this time due to it becoming late and myself being rather peckish.

Ogofa 3

Contributions for Ogofa 3 are urgently required now. The next issue is due out in October (don't laugh) so get your articles in now.

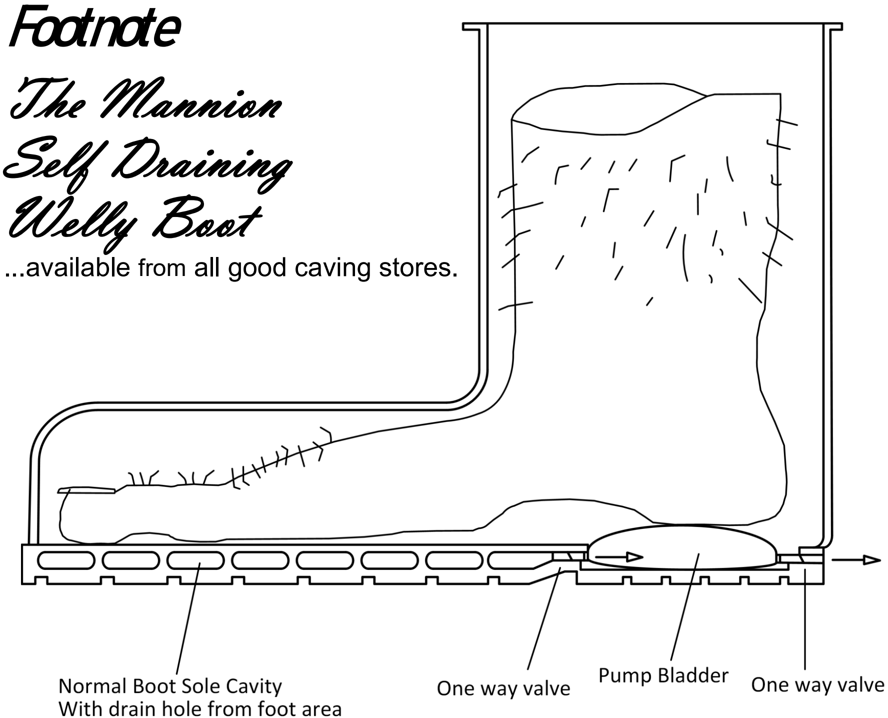
NW Police Missing Persons

Has anyone seen this man? Owner of the most experienced caving equipment in the country. Answers on a postcard to…...

Footnote

The Mannion Self Draining Welly Boot

...available from all good caving stores.



ONE FOR THE ALBUM

Addendum, Corrections and Notes

† 1 Page 1. None of the contact details are current, hence blanked.

†2 Page 13. The Great Orme cave originally published in *Ogofa 2* as Ogof Abaty was previously known as Ogof Agen or Agen Glandon. The CCR entry has been renamed to reflect this. This information came to me from Diane Bannerman of the Great Orme Exploration Society who at the turn of the millennium was busy compiling a guide to the caves, mines and wells of the Great Orme called *The Ormesday Project*. Much of this useful information has now been incorporated into the Cambrian Cave Registry.

†3 Page 14. I wouldn't recommend digging any of the Great Orme caves without seeking permission first, as many have archaeological significance.

†4 Page 25. Cris Ebbs of the Grosvenor Caving Club phoned me up with some extra information on some of the sites mentioned in *Ogofa 2*.

Ty Mawr Reservoir Sink as referred to in *Ogofa 2* - I was at the correct location. It appears that the passage discovered by a group of cavers from Denbigh has now been filled in. The passage was reported by them to have been in 'an unstable state'.

Ffynnon Ddyfnog, although producing a fair amount of water when I was there is very impressive during wet weather, so the underground water course must have a decent capacity. The Ffynnon Ddyfnog system was first identified by Tony Jarrat during the 70's.

As I suspected, the cave I though of as being Coppy Cave wasn't *the* Coppy Cave. Coppy Cave is at the northern end of the outcrop. The small passage I saw in the area of clay fill was christened **Ebbs Cave** by Cris a few years ago. Apparently a small dog got stuck here a few years ago. There used to be another cave in the outcrop but it was blocked many years ago. The farmer would be able to locate it though. Cris believes that the caves in this outcrop are archaeologically significant.